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'A showdown between good and evil'

Saddam offers UN chief little cause for hope

From John Holland in Baghdad and George Brock in Geneva

AS JAVIER Pérez de Cuéllar, the secretary-general of the United Nations and the world's last messenger for peace, flew to Baghdad last night President Saddam Hussein gave him a taste of the reception he can expect, declaring that the coming contest was a battle between the forces of good and evil.

"This is a showdown between the infidel and believers, between good and evil," he told a conference of radical Muslims in Baghdad, dimming hopes of a compromise when Sênor Pérez de Cuéllar arrives in the Iraqi capital this morning.

The meeting will come just four days before the UN deadline for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait or face attack by the American-led troops massed in the Gulf. Sénor de Cuéllar confirmed that one of the options to be discussed would be the deployment of neutral UN forces in Kuwait after the withdrawal of Iraqi troops.

The increasing tension over the stand-off was dramatically highlighted across the world: in Israel jet fighters stood poised, with pilots already seated in the cockpits, while in Washington anti-war protesters disrupted the Senate debate on the *Middle East* shouting "No blood for oil" and "No war for Bush".

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, began a mission of reassurance for the frontline states in the anti-Iraqi alliance by urging the leaders of Bahrain to look beyond the impending conflict and address the question of their long-term security needs.

He arrived in Bahrain, which is 300 miles from Iraq and within range of its Scud missiles, amid heightening security as the authorities prepared to carry out the first air raid siren drill. The foreign secretary's message was upbeat, accentuating the positive at a time when there were few signs that hostilities could be averted.

Mr Hurd's positive approach to his Arab allies was more than matched by Saddam's harangue of his people: "We have prepared all possible means to confront . . . and inflict defeat on the aggressors and the infidel," he said. Israeli-occupied lands would be restored to Palestinians, he said, apparently calling for a *jihad* or holy war and attempting to rally the rest of the Arab world to his cause should the final attempts at diplomacy fail. "Victory is close and Palestine will return to its people with the help of God almighty."

Meanwhile, several Western embassies planned to evacuate their diplomatic staff today on a specially-chartered *Iraqi Airways flight* due to leave Baghdad for Frankfurt.

American embassy officials said they had received a deluge of requests from other Western embassies who also wished to fly personnel out of the country.

"This is not an evacuation flight," an official said. "This plane has been chartered by the US government for the benefit of primarily US diplomats and journalists."

Iraqis braced themselves for the possibility of war in the wake of Saddam's hardline speech, which was interrupted numerous times by the mainly Iraqi audience who shouted their approval for their leader. He told the Muslim conference that Iraq was "not frightened. We are seeing victory approaching toward us balanced with faith, which is in our hearts and in our steps".

Western observers said it was perhaps the most detailed and open speech Saddam had made about his plans for fighting the West since the Gulf conflict began. He described how Iraqi pilots would carry out their duties even if their equipment was jammed by sophisticated Western devices, and pledged that the Americans would be "deceived by wolves on the flat open spaces of southern Iraq".

"We will not leave the Americans to stay quiet," he said and indicated that Iraq's loyal troops would fight with rifles and grenades to repel all the best military technology the West could muster.

Despite the Iraqi leader's tough words, however, one Western official noted that he has "gone to the brink before with the faithful and taken a long look into the abyss of war before doing a quick about-face".

Embassies that removed their staff yesterday included the Australians, the Italians and Spanish. The French have not yet received final word from Paris on a departure from Baghdad, but embassy officials said they were likely to stay after today as they expected the possibility of a new French initiative.

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GULF MOVES

UNITED NATIONS: Señor Pérez de Cuéllar will discuss the possible role of UN forces or observers during an Iraqi withdrawal when he meets Saddam in Baghdad today...... **Page 6**

MAJOR'S VIEW: John Major said time was running out for attempts at finding a peaceful solution in the Gulf but war was not inevitable .... **Page 6**

ISRAEL: President Bush is sending a top official to Jerusalem to emphasise that Israel must not launch a pre-emptive strike against Iraq ...... **Pages 6,7**

PETROL: Britain's big oil companies signalled the start of rapidly increasing petrol prices with a rise at the pumps of 6.8p a gallon...................... **Page 7**

WAR PLAN: Politicians and military commanders have drawn up and agreed on a war plan......... **Page 7**

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Miller meets Mandela

In the *Saturday Review* America's greatest living playwright talks to the symbol of South African resistance

INSIDE

Bad spelling penalised

Children will lose marks for poor spelling in all this summer's GCSE examinations, Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, announced yesterday. Previously, examiners have accepted inaccurate spelling, bad writing and incorrect grammar in all papers except English. Mr Clarke has now ruled that up to 5 per cent of a pupil's marks may be deducted in all subjects for poor spelling .... Page 22

Canal tragedy

A verdict of accidental death was recorded on three children who drowned when their mother stumbled on the edge of a canal lock in Reading, Berkshire, while she was taking them for a walk ..... Page 3

Chelsea fined

Chelsea football club was fined a record £105,000 by the Football League for making illegal payments to three of its players....................... Page 23

Pits to close

More pits will close as British Coal Corporation battles to cut costs and stem a threatened flood of imports ahead of privatisation, independent figures show .... Page 30

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Human barrier: Lithuanians stand defiantly in front of an armoured vehicle as Soviet troops tried yesterday to seize the press centre in Vilnius

Battle-ready Soviet troops seize buildings in Lithuanian capital

From Nick Worrall in Vilnius

SOVIET troops yesterday smashed their way into the headquarters of the Lithuanian defence department and the republic's main press centre.

Without warning, 60 armed Soviet infantrymen in battle-dress, steel helmets and flak jackets fired into the air and charged into a knot of singing people barring their way into the press complex. Bullets ricocheted off the concrete parapet above.

The leading troops used their rifles as clubs and the building's defenders kicked and punched in return. Soldiers at the back continued to fire.

It was a brutal attempt by Moscow to reimpose communist power on the tiny state that Stalin seized in the confusion of 1940. Before the action began, the building had been surrounded by tanks and armoured personnel carriers. The Soviet troops army had come prepared for war. What they encountered was a knot of unarmed people.

Men ran from the hushed watching crowds to support their battling friends. The rest jeered at the troops. A young civilian, his face covered with blood, staggered to an ambulance. After five minutes it was over. A cheer went up as the soldiers retreated. The tension eased and a few women wept. Two young protesters were taken to hospital with bullet wounds in their legs. Others were bruised and bleeding. Their injuries could have been worse, but most of the soldiers had been issued with blank ammunition.

For days the people of the Baltic republics, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, had been expecting action after Moscow decided to round up young men who had refused to answer their military call-up.

But they did not expect a Prague-style display of tanks in the streets. In two brief actions yesterday, troops occupied the press centre, an 18-storey complex where most of the republic's newspapers and magazines are printed, and a military headquarters half a mile away, used by the fledgeling Lithuanian defence force.

The action against the press centre was similar to last week's takeover by special interior ministry forces of a press centre in neighbouring Latvia. The buildings were seized a few minutes after 11am. Moments later, an official rushed into the Lithuanian parliament and interrupted the opening speech by Albertas Simenas, the newly elected premier, to say troops had opened fire at the defence building.

For the fourth day running, a crowd of pro-independence demonstrators was standing outside the parliament. Many people were jeering at a smaller counter-demonstration by remnants of the local Communist party protesting at imminent food-price increases.

As word spread about the army action, protesters streamed up the hill towards the press centre. A young man ran out on to the second-floor parapet to direct a hose at the soldiers below. A paratroop colonel was drenched. Enraged, he seized a rifle from a nearby soldier and, without aiming, fired upwards.

Later a seriously wounded man of 18 was taken from the building. With a bullet wound in the head, he underwent two hours of emergency surgery. His condition last night was "dangerous".

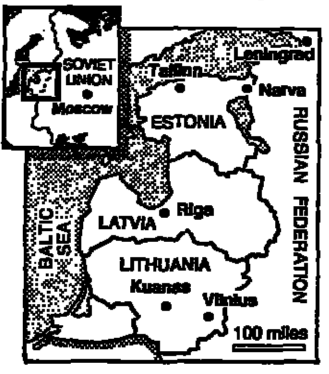
President Vytautas Landsbergis of Lithuania tried to telephone President Gorbachev in Moscow only to be told, said a statement later, that the Soviet leader was having lunch.

After the troops retreated, there were few illusions in Vilnius that the next wave of troops would be as easy to repulse as the first. The parliament building in the centre of the city was packed with volunteers being sworn in for the republic's new defence groups. So far about 850 young men have volunteered for full-time service.

Fears of an assault on the parliament building led to the issue of gas masks last night and what looked like preparations for a siege.

- **LONDON:** The Foreign Office yesterday summoned the Soviet chargé d'affaires to issue a strong protest against the use of armed force in Lithuania, and urged Moscow to withdraw troops from the streets and resume peaceful negotiations with elected bodies in the republic.
- **BRUSSELS:** Nato sent a warning to Moscow urging President Gorbachev to refrain from using force against demonstrators.
- **GENEVA:** European Community foreign ministers appealed to President Gorbachev to end the "intimidation by force" of Lithuania.
- **WASHINGTON:** President Bush did not criticise the Soviet action in Lithuania when President Gorbachev telephone him yesterday to discuss the Gulf conflict, although the US had criticised the dispatch of troops to the Baltic republics earlier this week. Washington dare not risk alienating Moscow at this critical moment in its confrontation with Iraq.

Leading article, page 11



Landsbergis: "Blood has been spilt"

Moves 'to prevent civil war'

From Bruce Clark in Moscow

SOVIET officials last night sought to present the clampdown in Lithuania as a move to prevent civil war.

State television reported with approval the pro-Soviet minority in the Lithuanian Communist movement has set up a "committee of national salvation" which would take responsibility for the territory's future.

Rafik Nishanov, chairman of one of the two parliamentary chambers, claimed that strikes at Moscow-controlled factories and public services in Lithuania indicated widespread support for Kremlin rule. He said an anti-independence rally in Vilnius had sent delegates to Vytautas Landsbergis, the Lithuanian president, demanging he submit to President Gorbachev or step aside in favour of a national salvation committee.

Egidius Bickauskas, Lithuania's chief representative in Moscow, denounced the strikes and anti-independence protests as a "planned scenario" and said Soviet actions were designed to stir up tension so as to legitimize the use of force.

Half of the British public back action

By Robin Oakley, political editor

HALF the British public believes that the multinational forces should invade Kuwait immediately after the United Nations deadline of January 15 has passed. And 58 per cent believe that the allies should remove President Saddam Hussein from power, even if he pulls his troops out of Kuwait at the last minute.

A new Mori poll, conducted on Wednesday and Thursday for the Free Kuwait campaign, found strong backing for the government's handling of the Gulf confrontation. In contrast to some European countries where public opinion has turned against the use of force, 75 per cent of Britons back military action and only 18 per cent oppose it.

The government's efforts earn a high satisfaction rating and John Major's uncompromising line on his Gulf tour this week has clearly benefited the Conservatives. Their support measured at 44 per cent to 42 per cent for Labour, and 11 per cent for the Liberals.

● **More backing:** An ITN/Harris poll for *News At Ten* found that 56 per cent of the British public supported military action. But 38 per cent believed that sanctions should be given several more months to succeed.

Full report, page 7

Stolen Gulf computer returned

A LAPTOP computer containing secret material on Britain's deployments in the Gulf, which was taken by a car thief, has been returned anonymously, the Ministry of Defence said last night (Stewart Tendler writes). It was returned in a plain package on January 7.

Defence ministry officials had been considering an offer of immunity if the thief came forward to reveal what had happened to the computer, used to brief the prime minister in December.

The computer and a briefcase were taken from the car of Wing Commander David Farquhar, a staff officer to the RAF commander in overall control of British forces deployment, as he was on his way back from Whitehall to operation headquarters. A thief broke into the car while parked outside a used car dealer's in Ealing, west London.

The briefcase was later found in north London. For some weeks the MoD asked for no press coverage while police launched a hunt for the thief.

Ballet star Bussell misses big role by inches

By Simon Tait
Arts correspondent

DARCEY Bussell, the great hope of British ballet, has been dimissed from Sir Kenneth MacMillan's Royal Opera House production of *Manon* just before tonight's Covent Garden opening – because she is too tall.

"On Thursday night it was decided that Darcey was not physically right for the role," the Royal Ballet said last night. "She was desperately disappointed but agreed with Sir Kenneth that the decision was right."

The portrayal was to have been Miss Bussell's debut in the role and she has been heavily publicised on behalf of the production with national newspaper interviews. Her pairing with Irek Mukhamedov, formerly of the Bolshoi, has been compared with Dame Margot Fonteyn's mould-breaking partnership with Rudolph Nureyev in the 1960s and 70s. Although Miss Bussell, aged 21, at 5ft 7in is two to three inches shorter than her partner, on points she stretches to 6 feet 2 inches, four inches taller than Mukhamedov. She becomes too unwieldy for her partner in a ballet which requires him to perform an unusual number of lifts.

"Sir Kenneth was very upset," the spokeswoman said. "They had worked very hard together and Darcey was almost there, but during final rehearsals he realised that it was not right."

Miss Bussell, for whom Sir Kenneth created the three-act ballet *Prince of the Pagodas* which had its world premiere at Covent Garden last year and effectively made her a star, remains a principal dancer with Royal Ballet. The partnership with Mukhamedov is to be renewed with a new Kenneth MacMillan ballet, *Winter Dreams*, opening on February 18. Miss Bussell was not available for comment last night. There were fears in ballet circles, however, that the break-up of the *Manon* partnership could affect the pair's future.

Manon is an opulent three-act piece to Massenet's music based on Prévost's novel about the stormy love affair between a prostitute, Manon, and a student, des Grieux. The part was to have been shared between Miss Bussell, Viviana Durante, Sylvie Guillem (who will dance opposite her Paris Opera partner, Laurent Hillaire) and Altynai Asylmuratova. Instead Miss Durante, who opens the 22-performance season tonight, will fulfil Miss Bussell's duties.

Bussell (right) and Durante, who will replace her

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Christmas crowd-puller brings zoo 'back from brink'

Peyton: urging ministers to share responsibility

By RUTH GLEDHILL

LONDON zoo is predicting that its losses will be cut by more than a third after its best Christmas for more than 20 years. The zoo said that if it sustains its recent surge in popularity, the £4.9 million operating deficit could be halved by the end of the financial year.

Management consultants McKinsey and executives from the zoo met at Regent's Park, northwest London, yesterday to draw up a plan to put to the government.

Lord Peyton of Yeovil, treasurer of the Zoological Society, said the zoo had been "brought back from the brink" by increased takings at the gate and more money being spent at the upgraded shops and restaurants. In September last year, he said that the zoo and Whipsnade wild animal park in Bedfordshire might have to close if last year's deficit were repeated.

Lord Peyton said: "What I am concerned about is how this place has been brought back from the brink. It is really doing rather well now. Most other leisure activities have done worse and gone back on their 1989-90 performance."

The zoo's Christmas programme, featuring nativity scenes, generated more interest than had been seen there for 20 years. Lord Peyton said: "It is a wonderful thing for a child to come along here and see the marvels of nature and to learn to wonder."

The zoo is counting on its deficit falling by 35 per cent this financial year, but if its improved popularity is sustained, the deficit should be halved. That will cut the net loss after investment income to £1 million. The zoo receives £1.6 million interest a year from a £10 million government rescue package agreed in 1988.

London Zoo and Whipsnade attracted 1.7 million visitors during 1990, but the zoo thinks the figure could go up rapidly this year.

Peter Denton, director of administration for Zoo Operations Ltd, which runs both the zoo and the wild animal park, said: "The economic situation is having a devastating effect on many of our competitors." He said the zoo should be at or near the top of the next tourist league table of attractions which show the biggest increase in support.

From the beginning of the present financial year to the end of last December, the number of people who went to London zoo increased by 4 per cent to more than 991,000 compared to the previous year. Whipsnade reported an increase of 16 per cent to more than 354,000 visitors.

The number of people who visited London zoo from December 8 to 24 rose by 36 per cent to nearly 15,700, and attendance at Whipsnade went up by 143 per cent to nearly 9,800.

Lord Peyton said the aim of the group that met yesterday was to look at the problems that had caused the deficit and to produce a plan to help resolve any remaining difficulties. "An enormous amount of progress has been made. The place has been cleaned up. The staff are in uniforms and tidy. The shops and catering are better."

The zoo hopes that Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary and a former member of the board of Zoo Operations, will treat the zoo with sensitivity. Lord Peyton said: "We hope in six months the core group will produce a plan. I am anxious that the government should at least sit down and talk as though the problem was shared."

He called on the government to accept the implications of its custodianship of Regent's Park and of its role as the ultimate planning and listed buildings authority.

Tories' policy advisers plan self-selection secondaries

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A DRASTIC overhaul of all-purpose, mixed ability comprehensive schools is proposed by influential Conservative policy advisers for inclusion in the next Tory manifesto.

They believe that falling standards in secondary schools have their roots in the failed educational upheaval of the 1960s and 1970s. However, they are not proposing a return to the 11-plus. Instead, they want to end the system under which the country's 4,500 all-in schools strive to serve up much the same educational menu to all their pupils irrespective of their abilities and interests. They would be replaced by a variety of schools specialising in contrasting groups of academic, vocational and technical subjects.

The old competitive 11-plus examination channelling pupils into grammar, technical and secondary modern schools according to aptitude and ability would be replaced by a system of "self selection". Pupils and their parents, in consultation with teachers, would choose whether to pursue courses and examinations leading to university entrance or to take alternative routes leading to more technologically or vocationally based qualifications.

Each secondary school in a local authority area would be required to develop a distinctive character. One might concentrate on languages and the humanities, another on mathematics and science and a third on art and design. If the demand exists, a more traditional blend of academic subjects might be provided by one of the grant-maintained schools funded directly by the government or by one of the existing county comprehensives. Children would transfer to their chosen school at the age of 11 and for their first three years would follow the 10-subject national curriculum.

At the age of 14, the range of subjects offered would narrow and become more specialised. That process would intensify after the age of 16. Pupils who changed their minds about the direction they wanted to take would be free to switch to another school at 14 and 16.

The proposals are to be put to the Tory manifesto group on education being chaired by Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary. One source said: "These developments are being targeted on the 14-19 group and the intention is that they will meet the big problems caused by the existing system. A large number of alienated pupils are playing truant between 14 to 16. Selection will improve their motivation and so contribute to higher attainment at 16 and a higher staying-on rate at school after 16."

James Pawsey, chairman of the backbench Tory education committee and member of the manifesto group, which is to meet soon, said he believed it was time to admit that in many cases the comprehensive experiment had not delivered the goods.

The plans will be attacked as a return to the social and educational divisions of the old tripartite system. But their supporters argue that the demands of a modern economy have already blurred the distinctions between academic and vocational education. The proposals are closely modelled on the "magnet" schools, pioneered in the US and now proposed in the radical Tory stronghold of Wandsworth in London. Plans for two magnet schools — one of which will concentrate on arts and design — are well advanced in the south London borough.

Spelling controversy, page 22

Home Office proposes privatised remand units

By QUENTIN COWDRY
HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS are considering proposals for private companies to run secure remand units for juveniles, to the alarm of social workers, probation officers and penal reformers.

The proposal has further delayed publication of a government consultation paper outlining alternatives to prison for juveniles on remand. The paper, first mentioned last February, has already been held up by inter-departmental disagreements.

Ministers, however, still want to include the new arrangements in the criminal justice bill, now in committee stage in the Commons. Until a few weeks ago it had seemed that the Home Office and the health department were close to agreeing that the solution to the problem of young people under 17 being remanded to adult prisons lay in expanding the network of council-run juvenile units.

Now, however, the Home Office has proposed that some, perhaps all, of the planned new units should be privately-managed. The 37 existing units are run by council social services departments, overseen by the Whitehall-based social services inspectorate.

If the privatisation idea features in the paper, there will be fierce protests from social workers, probation officers and penal reformers. They argue that care standards would fall if the profit motive was introduced into the system. The health department is also understood to be uneasy.

Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, said: "The kind of juveniles who end up in custody need the most intensive, specialised help. We don't believe commercial interests are best placed to provide it".

It is understood that the paper will recommend the provision of 12 new ten-bed units and new powers so that magistrates can insist that certain juveniles remanded into the care of local authorities are held securely.

Alison Halford (centre) attending the industrial tribunal hearing in Liverpool with her solicitor and a media posse yesterday

Chief constable denies smear campaign

By RONALD FAUX

JAMES Sharples, chief constable of Merseyside, denied yesterday that a smear campaign had been mounted against Alison Halford, his assistant chief constable, who has accused him at an industrial tribunal of sexual discrimination.

Breaking his silence over the tribunal hearing, Mr Sharples said that the misleading publicity surrounding it had become intolerable.

In a statement issued through Kevin Fletcher, his solicitor, Mr Sharples said that evidence relating to the allegations of a smear campaign had been placed before the attorney-general, the Liverpool industrial tribunal panel which is hearing Miss Halford's case against Mr Sharples, the home secretary, Northamptonshire police authority and Sir Philip Myers, north-west inspector of constabulary.

Miss Halford, aged 50, Britain's most senior policewoman, claims that she was turned down for a number of promotions because she is a woman. She is suspended from duty on full pay while allegations of misconduct against her are investigated. Since being suspended she has made two complaints as a private citizen to the police complaints authority, alleging neglect of duty by Mr Sharples.

In the statement, Mr Fletcher said that "neither the chief constable nor any police officer in the Merseyside police acting on his behalf, and with his knowledge, had leaked documents or information to the press or to any person outside the proceedings. Neither the chief constable nor any police officer in the Merseyside police acting on his behalf, and with his knowledge, had conducted a smear campaign against Miss Halford." The original statement omitted the words "and with his knowledge" but an amendment was issued later.

Sharples: "Evidence of source of press leak"

The statement said that the chief constable had not been responsible for the great many stories in the press and on television and radio. It went on: "It may be that an inference could be drawn that a document mentioned in a *Sunday Times* article on December 16, 1990, was leaked by the chief constable or by someone on his behalf with his knowledge. That led to widespread allegations of a smear campaign. We know that to be completely untrue.

"We have evidence ... which we believe reveals the true source of the leak. We have placed our evidence before the attorney-general and the chairman of the industrial tribunal and we are considering whether or not contempt proceedings are necessary. The chief constable of Merseyside now hopes that this case, which he will contest vigorously, can proceed without further distraction."

In her first complaint, Miss Halford accused Mr Sharples of neglect of duty in failing to investigate the apparent police sources of a Sunday newspaper report which first disclosed details of her alleged misconduct. She is said to have swum in a businessman's pool in her underwear while demonstrating life saving techniques with a junior officer when she was officially on duty.

In her second complaint, disclosed on Thursday by the Merseyside police authority, she accused unnamed officers of leaking the address of her Spanish holiday home to the media. Reporters followed her to Spain when she took her Christmas break after her suspension. Other allegations arose after *The Sunday Times* mentioned a "secret file" written by Mr Sharples which referred to rumours that Miss Halford had formed an "improper relationship" with a woman.

A spokesman for the tribunal panel said that yesterday's session would be held in private for production of documents. The hearing is expected to open in public next Thursday.

Lawyers oppose constraint on public right to planning appeals

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE government moved yesterday to deflect mounting opposition from the legal profession to proposals which lawyers fear will dissuade people from appealing against a planning decision at a public enquiry or hearing.

The Bar, the Law Society and the all-party law reform group Justice have joined forces to fight the proposals in clause 24 of the planning and compensation bill, which starts its committee stage in the Lords next week.

They are concerned that people will be deterred from exercising their right to have their appeal heard publicly because of a new proposed power enabling the environment secretary or an inspector to award the costs of the enquiry against them.

Tim Yeo, environment minister, who said yesterday that he would consult various bodies on the proposals, also issued a statement on the government's position. "We are concerned with a comparatively small number of appeals which really do not justify the formality and expense of an enquiry or a hearing," he said.

"We think it is right that, when somebody unreasonably maintains that an enquiry or hearing must take place, he should have to bear the financial consequences of his request for other parties in those appeal proceedings."

The new power meant that someone who thought the written representations procedure unsatisfactory for his appeal would have to assess the risk of costs being awarded against him for having been unreasonable in asking for an enquiry. Mr Yeo added that it should not be interpreted as an attempt to deter anyone from requesting an enquiry.

The paper outlines factors that would be relevant in assessing "unreasonableness" and what safeguards would be built into this process. Under the clause, where an inspector decides retrospectively that the appellant insisted unreasonably on being heard at a public local enquiry instead of submitting his appeal under the written procedure, the inspector can order against him or her.

David Keene, QC, vice-chairman of the Local Government and Planning Bar Association, said that the clause seemed to be aimed at deterring people from exercising their right to an oral hearing.

"We take the view that an oral hearing is of the greatest importance to appellants. Many appellants find it difficult to express themselves effectively in writing and they ought to have the entitlement to speak directly to the inspector at an enquiry because he is the person who is usually the decision-maker."

Letters, page 11

Demolition challenged

By CHRISTOPHER WARMAN, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

PROPERTY developers may have to obtain planning permission before they demolish buildings as a result of a High Court decision yesterday.

Deputy High Court judge David Widdicombe, QC held that demolition, if it was an operation that a builder would normally carry out, constituted development which needed planning consent. Until now, permission has normally been required only to demolish a listed building.

The judge allowed an appeal by Cambridge city council in its attempt to stop a developer converting a site with two houses into a car park. He said a planning inspector erred in law by ruling that demolition could go ahead, and remitted the case to the environment secretary for reconsideration.

The houses in Milton Road, Cambridge were close to an office complex put up by Milton Park Investments, which bought the houses and used them as a site office, then began to demolish them and use the space as a car park. Cambridge city council ordered the company to stop the demolition and restore the houses, saying it did not have planning permission. The firm appealed and an environment department inspector quashed the notices. The judge granted leave to appeal against his decision.

Police exempt from poll tax capping

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

POLICE authorities are to be exempted from charge capping to ensure that officers remain on the beat despite stringent spending limits proposed by ministers.

Lord Ferrers, the Home Office minister of state, said that the five metropolitan police authorities outside London would not be penalised for overspending to maintain manning levels. His assurance was given in a letter to the Labour-controlled Association of Metropolitan Authorities (AMA).

The letter was released after the Greater Manchester Police Authority issued a warning that it would have to dismiss 100 officers and cut 70 civilian posts to stay within what it described as "inadequate" government spending targets. Lord Ferrers said that capping was not an automatic process and that Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, would not allow police authorities to be capped simply for trying to maintain staff levels.

The five metropolitan police authorities took over responsibility for policing Greater Manchester, Merseyside, South Yorkshire, the West Midlands and West Yorkshire when the metropolitan counties were abolished in 1986. Since then they have operated as independent single-purpose local authorities and have become subject to capping under the same procedures that are used to control local council spending.

All five had said that they might face capping from April and the 6,988-strong Greater Manchester force said that the cash limits set by Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, would not be enough to maintain spending at this year's level.

Lord Ferrers' letter said: "In the case of single service police authorities, the home secretary's view of their expenditure needs and, in particular, the maintenance of manpower at the level which he has approved, would be crucial factors in the capping decision."

George Bundred, chairman of the AMA police committee, said last night: "On the face of it this is very good news. It should mean that we will be able to save some of the 1,700 officers which chief constables have predicted will be taken off the streets."

Last October the government announced that any council which spent 9 per cent more than in the current financial year or exceeded its spending target by more than 12.5 per cent from April would risk being capped. The environment department said last night it had never stated that capping would be automatic.

☐ Local authority leaders yesterday challenged the government's commitment to carry out a thorough review of local government and the poll tax by tabling their own six-point agenda for change. Responding to an invitation by Mr Heseltine to suggest a programme, the three main local government bodies said the constitutional role of councils should be clarified.

Decision deferred in bomb plot plea

THE Court of Appeal yesterday deferred its decision over the appeal by Gilbert McNamee, a convicted IRA bombmaker.

Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, sitting with Mr Justice Kennedy, was told that lawyers for the physics graduate, aged 30, wanted to advance further legal argument, although the appeal hearing ended on December 19 and judgment was due yesterday. McNamee, from Crossmaglen, Co Armagh, is serving a 25-year sentence for plotting to cause explosions. He was jailed at the Central criminal Court in 1987.

Richard Ferguson QC, for McNamee, is abroad and the third judge who heard his appeal against conviction, Mr Justice Judge, was also unavailable yesterday through family illness. Lord Lane adjourned the hearing provisionally until January 18 to complete legal argument.

● Some long-term prisoners in Northern Ireland are to be given television sets in their cells, and access to an in-house video system, as well as being able to exercise in modern gymnasium facilities. A £200,000 prison unit has been completed at Magherberry jail and will house 80 inmates.

The prison unit, which is the most modern in the United Kingdom, opens on Monday and is seen as part of the Northern Ireland Office's progressive policy of trying to wean away long-stay prisoners from the influence of the republican and Loyalist paramilitary organisations before their release.

Sammy Wilson, of the Democratic Unionist party, last night criticised the government for boasting about keeping prisoners in "luxury hotels."

No copyright in TV clips

Television broadcasters can no longer claim an absolute monopoly to prevent use of clips from transmissions, including exclusive coverage of sports events, a High Court judge ruled yesterday.

In a judgment expected to have wide implications, Mr Justice Scott dismissed a breach of copyright action brought by the BBC against British Satellite Broadcasting, now part of British Sky Broadcasting, over use of BBC highlights from the World Cup soccer on satellite sports news.

He ruled that BSB's use of clips recorded from BBC live coverage was protected by a defence of "fair dealing", introduced by the 1988 Copyright Act and allowing limited use of copyright material.

Arson trial delay

An Iranian student yesterday denied carrying out an arson attack on Dillon's bookshop in Bloomsbury, which was stocking Salman Rushdie's *The Satanic Verses*. The trial at the Central Criminal Court of Mehrdad Kokabi, aged 33, studying at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, was adjourned until Monday because not enough jurors were available.

Vaccine trials

Further trials of a new whooping cough vaccine are planned after research which appears to have found that the vaccine has fewer side effects than earlier versions. The trials will assess the vaccine's protective effect, according to a report by British researchers in *The Lancet*. The vaccine has been developed by the centre for applied microbiology and research at Porton Down, Wiltshire.

Tunnel prosecution

The five British construction companies building the Channel tunnel are to be prosecuted for criminal negligence after the death last May of a construction worker, the Health and Safety Executive announced yesterday. The companies face a maximum fine of £2,000 each if convicted by a magistrates' court, and an unlimited fine if the case is committed to crown court.

CORRECTION

We regret that the photograph accompanying our report on bids for the commercial "non-pop" radio franchise (Jan 9) was of David Astor, former editor of the *Observer*, not of the David Astor who is chairman of Classic FM, whose photograph appears above.

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Accidental death verdict on children drowned in canal

By Peter Victor

A VERDICT of accidental death was recorded yesterday on three children who drowned when their mother took them for a walk by a canal in Reading two days after Christmas.

Charles Hoile, the West Berkshire coroner, was told at a hearing in Newbury that Suzanne Vazquez stumbled forward on the edge of Southcote Lock as she watched her children play. Craig, her seven-month-old son and daughters Claire, aged six, and Carla, aged eight, fell into the lock on the Kennet and Avon canal and died.

Mrs Vazquez, aged 30, of Tilehurst, Reading, said that Carlos, her husband, had left home at 6am to go fishing. She had taken the children for a walk stopping to rest at a bench near the lock. She said that Carla began playing near the water's edge and Claire went to join her so she moved closer to supervise them. "I knelt down behind them. I had the baby on my knee."

When she got up to leave her leg was numb and it gave way. "As I stood up they [Carla and Claire] fell in the water. I fell forward and reached out to grab them, and the baby fell. It all happened so fast." None of the children could swim and as she was a poor swimmer she did not jump in after them, she said.

"I froze and panicked and I started screaming for someone to help get them out." She ran down the canal path to where Philip Ludford was fishing. He managed to get out one of the girls but she was dead.

The coroner said that Mrs Vazquez had been treated for post-natal depression in 1985 and 1987. She had also been treated from last October. Philip Simmonds, the family doctor, said in a written submission that Mrs Vazquez had been prescribed an anti-depressant drug but had come off it and was recovering when the accident happened. "There was nothing in her symptoms which suggested to me in any way that she would neglect or harm her children," he said.

Detective Inspector John Ireland of Thames Valley police said that investigations had confirmed Mrs Vazquez's version of events.

The bodies were examined by Dr Freddie Patel, a pathologist at Guy's hospital, central London. He said the children died as "a result of immersion in water. There were minor injuries consistent with falling into water. There were no injuries consistent with deliberate immersion."

John Weston, a British Waterway Board operations manager, said that the board put a high priority on safety and was to see if improvements were needed at the lock where the children drowned.

Mr Hoile, the coroner, said it was clear from Mrs Vazquez's evidence that the deaths had been the results of a tragic accident. He said that it had been for her a moment of extreme panic. "One could see that hysteria took over almost immediately, one could see from the state of her clothes that she did what she could from the bank in a kneeling position."

He commended the police on their sensitive handling of the case. He concluded: "My sympathy goes out to this family as does the sympathy of right-minded people." In each case he said his verdict was accidental death.

● An inquest opened yesterday into the deaths of a man and his three daughters in a blazing car at Cliftonville, Margate, Kent, on January 4. Evidence of identification was given on John Roy, aged 36, who was on compassionate leave from Aldington prison, near Ashford, and his children Louise, aged seven, Lois, aged four, and 18-month-old Leigh. The inquest was adjourned.

Suzanne and Carlos Vazquez arriving at the inquest into the deaths of their children yesterday

Tube error seen after baby died

JEMMA Fenton, a baby aged 11 months, was blown up like a balloon as a hospital emergency team fought to save her life, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Night sister Barbara Leonard, part of the team which tried to save the baby, said a wrongly connected oxygen tube was noticed only after she died. Ms Leonard said she questioned the two nurses on duty in the ward at Oldchurch Hospital, Romford, Essex, — Florence McKenley and Stephanie Jordan — but both denied touching any tubing. Mrs McKenley, aged 48, of Woodford, Essex, is accused of causing Jemma's death by wrongly connecting the oxygen tube to an intravenous drip in her arm. She denies manslaughter.

Registrar Joan Hoare said Jemma was bloated when the resuscitation team arrived at her cot. She denied suggestions by Robin Stewart, QC, for Mrs McKenley, that Jemma had become bloated during the resuscitation attempts.

The trial continues on Monday.

Skippers to defy EC fishing rules

TRAWLER skippers decided yesterday to risk arrest at sea by ignoring European Commission regulations forcing them to tie up in port for eight consecutive days each month (Peter Davenport writes). The rules, intended to conserve dwindling North Sea stocks of cod and haddock, come into effect on February 1.

About 70 boats in England and Wales are affected, mainly in northeast ports. Their skippers say the regulations will be ineffective and will endanger lives as boats will be forced by economic pressure to put to sea in bad weather and stay at sea longer than is safe.

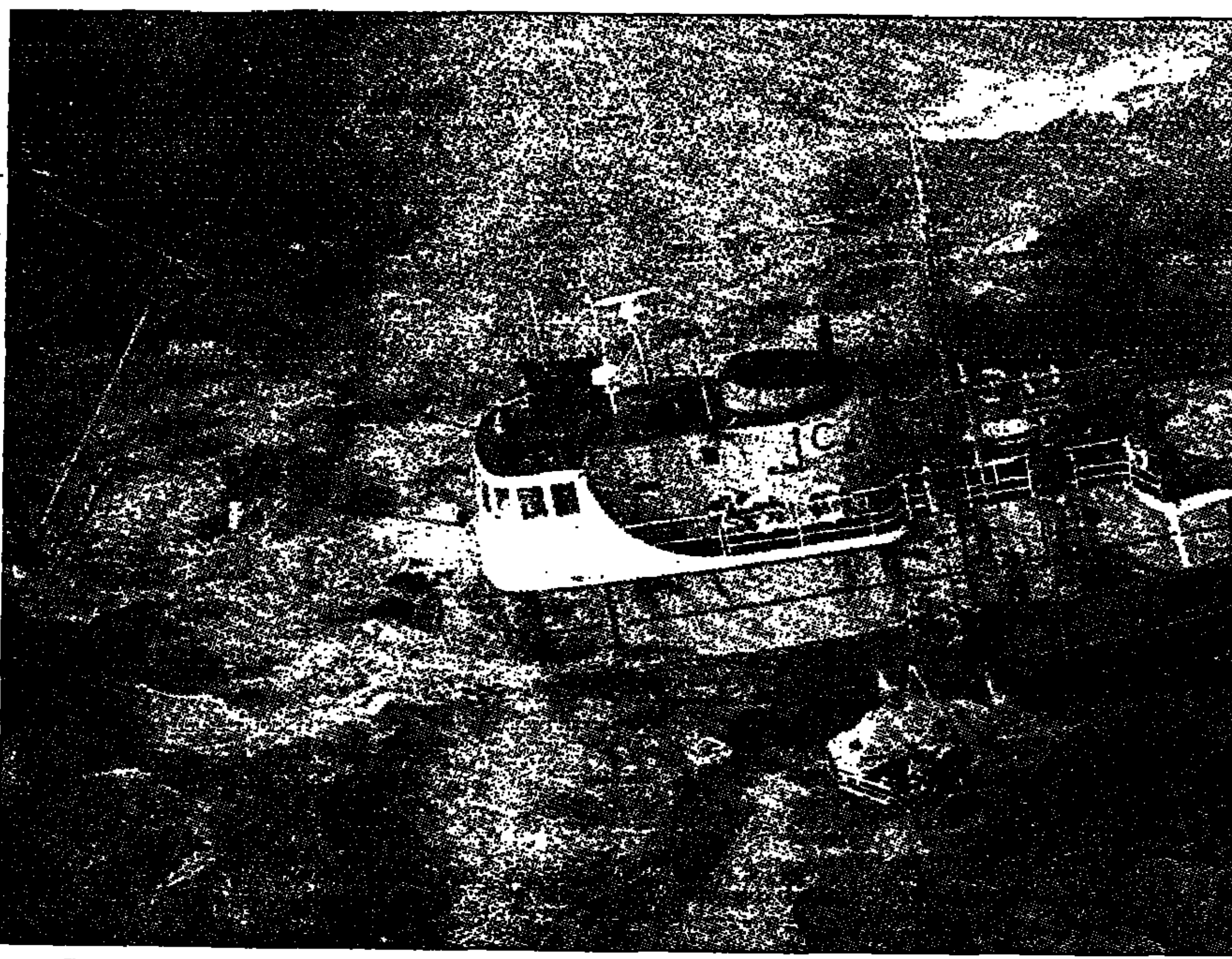
The decision to ignore the rules was taken at a meeting of trawlermen in Whitby organised by the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations, representing 4,000 fishermen in England and Wales. Richard Banks, the federation's chief executive, said that it would fight the case of any arrested skipper and pursue the action to the European Court.

He said that fishermen breaching the common licensing regulations face fines of up to £50,000. The eight-day rule could, to a degree, be offset by fishermen working longer hours and going to sea at weekends but they would be forced to stay out at sea in bad conditions when they should not be there.

The legislation applies to boats which between January 1989 and last June caught over 100 tonnes, more than 40 per cent of which was cod and haddock. The worst affected ports would be Grimsby, Whitby and Bridlington.

In an attempt to force the hand of the government, all boats intending to flout the eight-day rule will put to sea with nets increased from a mesh size of 90mm to 110mm, a move which, the fishermen say, will do more to conserve stocks than the new rules. It will cost each boat £4,000 to change nets and the federation believes the move will make it morally difficult for the government to order the arrest and prosecution of its members.

The meeting yesterday also decided that the federation should challenge the legality of the legislation and the common fisheries policy at the European Court of Justice



Sea rescue: a picture taken by Flight Lieutenant Chris Palgrave, an RAF helicopter winchman, and released yesterday, of the crew of the St Martin rig standby vessel before their rescue off the Norfolk coast on Thursday

Survivors tell inquest of rescue from sea

TWO Polish men, the only survivors of a crew of 12 from a tanker which capsized off Anglesey, north Wales, on Sunday morning, described yesterday how they escaped death.

They were speaking at an inquest in Bangor on four men — two Poles and two from Cape Verde Islands — whose bodies are the only ones to have been recovered.

Krzystof Gapinski, aged 38, bosun of the 1,800-tonne Kimya, described being hurled into the water from the bridge where the crew was in life-jackets. He had been with a group of six men in the water who were battered by huge waves. "But as time went on voices faded away and then there was no contact with anybody," he told coroner Dewi Pritchard-Jones.

Mr Gapinski said he had been saved because the light from his waterproof torch was spotted by a helicopter crew who eventually winched him to safety.

Asked by the coroner why he thought the Kimya had capsized, he said: "I presume that there was too much water going on to the port side." The bosun said that the crew had spent two hours using pumps to try to adjust the ballast

Third engineer Bogdan Szpilman, aged 28, said he owed his life to the windsurfing wet suit which he was wearing, a lifejacket and a light from emergency equipment. He said that he had no idea why the tanker started to list and turn over.

Mr Szpilman said he had been in the water for 40 minutes with some of the crew. "Very strong and high winds separated us. When I was again on the surface I didn't see anybody."

The inquest, which was adjourned after three hours, was told by a pathologist that the four men had died from drowning associated with hypothermia.

Crashes and flood alerts but weather prospects improve

By Kerry Gill and Craig Seton

AFTER a week of being battered by gales, lashed with rain and covered by snow most parts of Britain will this weekend be brighter but colder.

The London Weather Centre has forecast that high pressure from the west will bring brighter but colder weather, although there will still be scattered showers in many northern and western areas, heavy at times, with snowfalls, particularly over Scotland, Northern Ireland and northern England. The south will be cloudy with showers but all areas should become brighter and drier on Sunday and Monday.

As large areas of Kent suffer floods after heavy downpours, two water authorities said they want to extend drought orders. Southern Water and Mid Kent Water say that they must keep hosepipe bans into the summer.

In Kent yesterday a man died after being blown off a hotel roof in Hollingbourne, near Maidstone. He had been working on the roof with two other men. A red alert warning of the possible flooding of homes close to the Severn between Worcester and Tewkesbury in Gloucestershire was issued yesterday as the river rose to a peak about 14ft above its normal level.

Thousands of acres of farmland and some roads and properties have been flooded in the Severn valley between Shrewsbury in Shropshire and Tewkesbury after two days of heavy rain.

The National Rivers Authority hopes that the level will begin to recede over the weekend. The area where homes were most at risk yesterday was at Upton on Severn , south of Worcester, but flooding was not expected to be as serious as last winter, when the river broke its banks.

A sudden hailstorm is believed to have caused a ten-car pile-up yesterday on the A27 between Chichester, Sussex and Emsworth, Hampshire. Cars landed on their roofs and others careered off the carriageways, but police said that nobody was killed or badly injured.

In Scotland a skier was found dead late yesterday after he and his companion plunged several hundred feet down a mountain on the edge of Rannoch Moor in the Western Highlands on Thursday. Andy Ravenhill, aged 29, of Torlundy near Fort William, spent an hour vainly trying to revive his fellow skier, Martin Crean, aged 30, of Callington, Cornwall.

Mr Ravenhill, who had struggled four miles through drifting snow to raise the alarm, was taken off by RAF helicopter yesterday, suffering from whiplash injuries and strained knee ligaments. A mountain rescue team is searching for the dead man in avalanche conditions.

The helicopter pilot, Flight Lieutenant Robin Sladden, said when he tried on Thursday night to rescue the injured man "the snow caused us so many problems we had to turn back". He made a successful pick-up yesterday after landing the rescue team.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

The spectre of Stalin

"No issue cleaves Soviet society today the way Stalinism does. Half a century after the purges and the mass murders, Stalinism is still an open wound. It defines the political spectrum. It lies at the heart of the country's struggle to recover its soul — a struggle that reaches deep into the personal lives of almost every adult over 40, testing the beliefs of a lifetime."

Soviet expert Hedrick Smith, in The Sunday Times tomorrow.

Jeremy Irons

"Perhaps Irons was an unlikely actor to portray a Danish aristocrat, to adjust the perfect English accent so that it contained the necessary overlay of European. But he has carried it off with considerable success."

Profile, in The Sunday Times tomorrow.

Trawlermen land £64,000 net gain

By Michael Hornsby
Agriculture Correspondent

RICHARD Newman had an unexpected Christmas present. On December 19 he put to sea from Looe harbour in Cornwall with his brother Chris to pair trawl for sea bass, one of the most highly prized fish in the sea.

In pair trawling, two vessels sailing about a quarter of a mile apart drag a single net between them, a much bigger one than either could handle alone.

Finding bass can be a hit-or-miss business and at first it seemed that they were going to be out of luck. Mr Newman said: "We had turned for home and it was only when we began to haul the net in that we realised we had a major catch of bass. I wish I knew how we found them. I would be back there tomorrow."

The haul weighed 9.5 tons and at £3 a lb fetched £64,000 at auction the next day, the largest catch ever recorded in the Looe market. In total, bass landings netted local fishermen £850,000 last year. Much of the catch was exported to France, where *loup de mer* is a prized table fish. Bass is also in increasing demand in London restaurants and is fetching £7.50 a lb in Billingsgate market, compared with £2 a lb for salmon. The total value of the bass catch to fishermen is about £5 million a year, making it one of the most important commercial fisheries.

While the commercial trawlermen have been celebrating their good fortune, rod-and-line anglers who have long admired the sporting qualities of the hard-fighting bass are worried that such big hauls could deplete stocks to dangerously low levels.

Bryan Meade, conservation officer of the Welsh Federation of Sea Anglers, said: "There will be too few fish left to reproduce to keep stocks healthy in the future and there must be some sort of catch quota." Dave Cooling, treasurer of the Bass Anglers Sportsfishing Society, said it was wrong to allow trawlers "to prey on the fish just when the overwintering shoals are about to start breeding".

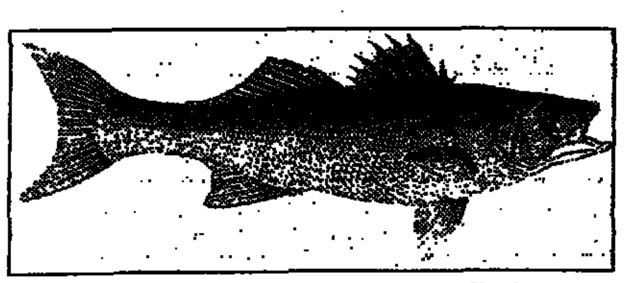
Adult bass are powerful and can grow to well over 19lb. They spend the summer inshore in the southern North Sea, Irish Sea and off the Welsh coast, feeding on crabs, shrimp and other small fish. From December they move south to the western reaches of the English Channel to gather in shoals in warmer offshore waters before spawning in March and April.

Scientists at the agriculture ministry's fisheries research directorate in Lowestoft say the anglers' fears are exaggerated. Mike Pawson, a stock management specialist at the directorate, said: "We believe that if we can protect the juvenile fish, the adult stock is capable of looking after itself. The evidence for a crisis in the fishery is not there."

After spawning, the eggs drift inshore, hatching within five days into larvae that grow over the next 30-40 days to a length of 12mm. Around June they move into river estuaries, harbours and the warm water outfalls of power stations. The fish grow slowly in these so-called "nursery areas" from which they eventually join the adult stock, the males at the age of four and the females at around six years.

To protect the fish during this long growth period, the government last June introduced measures banning fishing for bass for all or part of the year in 34 nursery areas round the southern and western coasts of England. It is also illegal to catch bass that are less than 36cm in length.

The scientists do not believe that extra measures, such as quotas, are needed yet. They say that French fishermen have been exploiting the overwintering shoals on their side of the Channel much more heavily than the British since the mid-1970s without endangering stock levels.



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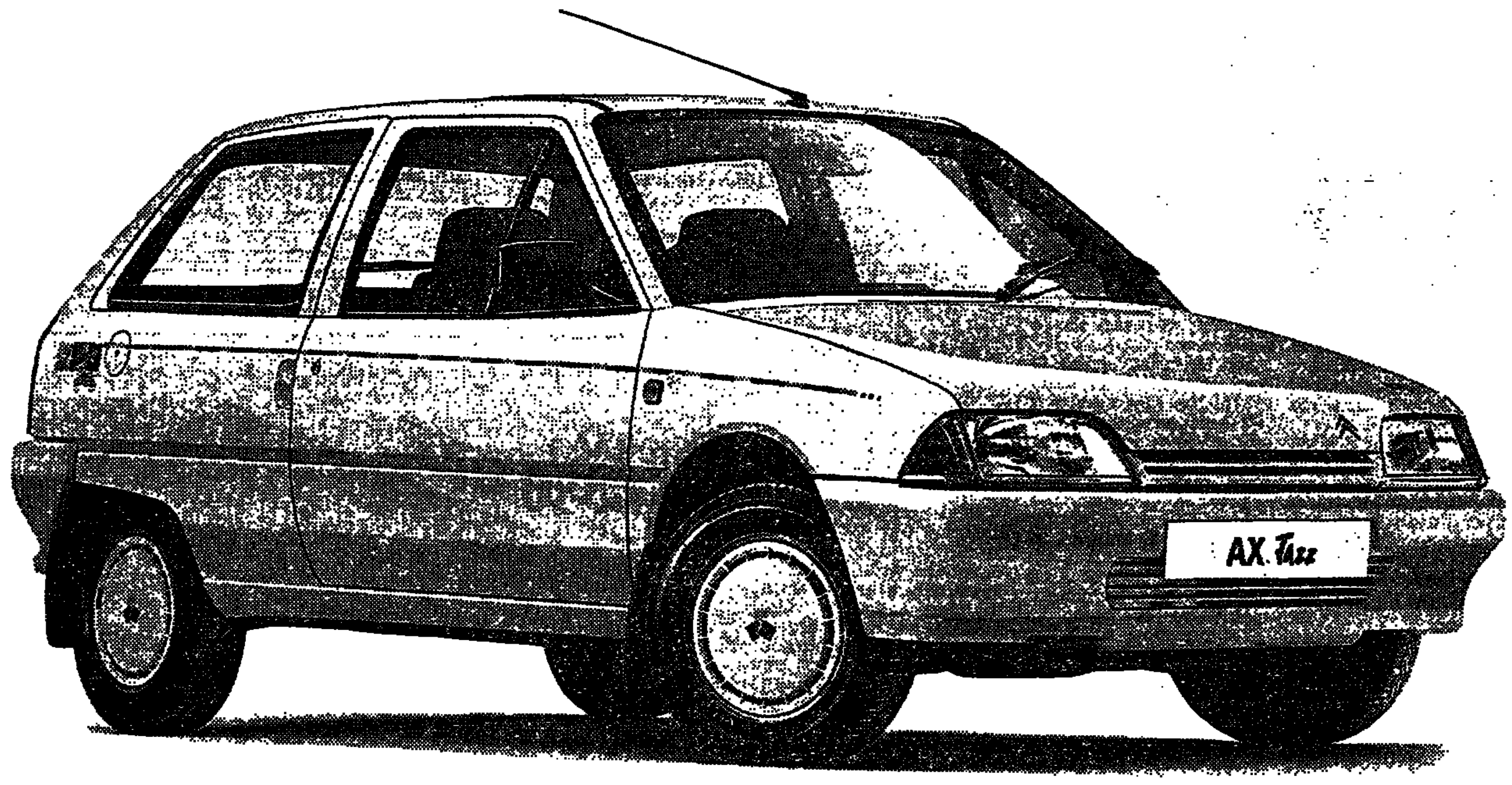

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Rib-ticklers in the poll tax queue

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

RESIDENTS of Rotherham, South Yorkshire, are being given something to laugh about as they queue to pay the poll tax. The Labour-controlled council has published a joke book which it has put on sale at community charge collection counters.

For 50p charge payers can buy 25 pages of jokes, cartoons and howlers from official council documents, including letters received by staff at the town's civic centre.

Among the gems from housing department files is a letter from a council tenant, saying: "Will you please send someone to mend our broken path. Yesterday my wife tripped and fell and now she is pregnant."

Another troubled tenant wrote: "Our kitchen floor is very damp. We have two children and would like a third, so will you please send someone to do something about it." A further letter said: "Will you please tell me when our repairs are going to be done as my wife is about to become an expectant mother?"

A worried tenant wrote: "I request your permission to remove my drawers in the kitchen" while another complained: "I am still having trouble with smoke in my built-in drawers."

The book reports a letter from a tenant who asked: "My toilet seat is cracked, where do I stand?" His problems were as nought compared to the one who wrote: "This is to let you know that our lavatory seat is broken and we cannot get BBC2."

Perhaps the most surreal letter came from a tenant who said: "I am writing on behalf of my sink which is running away from the wall." The joke book is being sold in aid of the local authorities' charity, Council Aid, which modelled itself on the Live Aid and Band Aid campaigns. Three thousand copies of the joke book have been printed for sale in libraries, sports centres and catering outlets and they can also be bought at the reception desk in the poll tax collection department. The aim is to raise £1,500 towards the £50,000 target set for Council Aid's project to provide irrigation for Mozambique farmers.

Sheila Halse, the council's public relations officer, intiated the joke book as a way of training staff to use new desktop publishing equipment. She said: "It is besed on the college rag mag format and proved a very good way of getting to know how to use the equipment. We hope it will give people a good laugh."

But what about the advisability of selling it to poll tax payers as they part with community charge payments? "We think it will bring a smile to anyone's face, however depressed they are," she said.

HEDLEY VERITY

Rescue operation: Mr Orde-Powlett at Bolton Castle after the grant was announced

£620,000 heritage grant for medieval castle facelift

By PETER DAVENPORT

ENGLISH Heritage yesterday announced its largest single grant for the repair of an ancient monument when it gave details of financial aid for a long-term programme of work on Bolton Castle in Wensleydale, north Yorkshire, where Mary, Queen of Scots was once jailed.

Built between 1360 and 1399 for Richard, Lord Scrope, a battle companion of the Black Prince and Chancellor of England under Richard II, Bolton is regarded as one of the best preserved 14th century castles.

It stands five miles west of Leyburn in the Yorkshire Dales, stark and rectangular with a central courtyard and four ranges linking huge corner towers. The castle has been a silent witness to many of the important events of English history. In 1645, during the Civil War, it withstood a siege by parliamentary forces and later was among a number of Yorkshire castles that were ordered to be dismantled because of their continued strategic importance.

Despite its travails and continued use throughout the centuries, English Heritage says the medieval character of the castle is remarkably unchanged. By the mid-1980s however it became clear that the fabric of the castle was suffering serious decay and repairs were necessary.

A three-year programme of work costing £1.5 million is scheduled, with the first phase due for completion by April. The grant of £620,000 announced by English Heritage yesterday represents about 90 per cent of the total cost of phase one and includes £80,000 for archaeological recording and advice from Lancaster university.

The present owner is Harry Orde-Powlett, son of Lord Bolton and descended from the Scrope family. He hopes to improve the attractions at the castle, especially the main apartments and bedchambers. Bolton is open to the public between March and November and attracts 70,000 visitors annually.

☐ The National Trust announced officially yesterday that it had purchased A La Ronde, the extraordinary 16-sided house at Exmouth, Devon, and Northern Ireland's most famous mountain, the 2,796ft Slieve Donard (Christopher Warman writes).

A La Ronde was built in 1798 by spinster cousins Jane and Mary Parminter and modelled on a sixth century Byzantine basilica at Ravenna they had seen on an European tour.

Slieve Donard overlooks the seaside resort of Newcastle, Co Down, and was sold for a "substantial" sum by the Annesley family.

Early ban urged for pig rearing methods

By MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE most extreme forms of confined pig rearing, which the government says farmers may use until the end of 1998, should be phased out faster, animal welfare campaigners say.

Sir Richard Body, Conservative MP for Holland with Boston, said yesterday that he would press ahead with his private member's bill, which would ban all such systems after five years and prohibit immediately the installation of new units.

In what appeared to have been timed as a pre-emptive move, John Gummer, the agriculture minister, announced on Thursday that the government was also planning to ban new units but would give farmers eight years to phase out existing ones. Mr Gummer said that his proposal was a big step forward for animal welfare.

Sir Richard, a former pig farmer, said it was gratifying that the government at last saw the necessity of bringing these dreadful methods to an end. "I will not be withdrawing my bill, however, as a five-year phasing-out period is preferable and it will provide an opportunity for the subject to be debated." He is seeking a second reading of his bill, which has unofficial Labour party support, on January 25.

At present, half of Britain's estimated 400,000 sows are kept in stalls. In a dry stall, a sow is confined between metal bars on a concrete and slat floor, unable to turn round for most of its 16½-week pregnancy. In a tether stall, the animal is tied to the floor.

The National Farmers' Union said that it would prefer a ten-year phasing-out period as farmers would face heavy costs in switching to alternative systems. The union also wanted the same regulations to apply throughout the European Community so that British producers would not be competing at a disadvantage.

Alternatives to the stall system include less confined indoor housing and free-range outdoor rearing. The latter accounts for no more than 10 per cent of British pork and bacon production. Less intensive systems would mean lower output and probably higher prices in the shops.

Compassion in World Farming, the animal rights group, welcomed Mr Gummer's announcement but said the hundreds of thousands of sows incarcerated in stalls and tethers could not wait eight years and urged MPs to support Sir Richard's bill.

Leading article, page 11

Dog enthusiasts flock to new venue

THE Crufts dog show, held for the first time at the Birmingham National Exhibition Centre, has attracted a record 37,000 visitors in the first two days and the organisers hope that 100,000 people will have attended by the end of the four-day event.

The organisers said yesterday: "Our daily attendance figures are above those at Earls Court. The NEC is obviously a very popular venue and we are extremely pleased that figures are so high."

Results from yesterday:

Hounds

Best of Breeds. Afghan: Ch Sasnkan Me and My Girl (Mr and Mrs R D Savage, Watford, Herts). **Basset Fauve De Bretagne:** Varon Hermitage at Kocalba (Ms K Lucas, Crawley Down, W Sussex). **Beagle:** Ch Julemark Hotspur By Nedlaw (Mmes Walden & Dundas, Farringdon, Hants). **Borzoi:** Ch Rae Ravell (Mr and Mrs R E Heap, Colne, Lancs). **Dachshund** (long haired): Ch Swansford Arrandor (Mrs M Swann, Stafford, Staffs). **Dachshund** (miniature long haired): Wildstar Wroyal Seal (R Wood, Norwich, Norfolk). **Dachshund** (miniature smooth haired): Ch Ralines Maid To Measure (Mr P and Mrs F & Ms R Lockett, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton). **Dachshund** (miniature wire-haired): Emem Mindyer Manners (Mrs M Dance, Yardley, Birmingham). **Elkhound:** Highland Tasha (R Cassels, Londonderry, N Ireland). **Finnish Spitz:** Toveri Kuukkeli (Mr and Mrs C Window, Newmarket, Suffolk). **Greyhound:** Ch Royal Portrait (Mrs H Chapman, Wadebridge, Cornwall). **Hamiltonstovares:** Druan Dansa of Tedandi (Mrs D Cork, Alton, Hants). **Ibizan:** Talkaccatur Wildfire at Canequiss (Ms S Clark, Torrington, Devon). **Irish Wolfhound:** Ch and Ir Ch Culvercroft Benjamin of Guilagh (Mr and Mrs T M Finney, Naul, Co Dublin). **Otterhound:** Ch Otterbobs Pearly of Lyonesse (Mr and Mrs D C Harper, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk). **Rhodesian Ridgeback:** Samsilver Samuru (Mr and Mrs D Seaman, King's Lynn, Norfolk). **Salukis:** Ch Jazirat Baniyya (Mr and Mrs K D Allan, Huntingdon, Cambs). **Sloughi:** Kamet Moussa (Ms M Keele, Ashford, Middlesex) **Whippet:** Ch Tilegreen Tornado (Mrs M Blanks, Basildon, Essex). **Fox Terrier (Wire):** Blacdale Going for Gold (IKC) (Mr H O'Donoghue, Dundalk, Co Louth, Ireland). **Basenjis:** Ch Tenki Tambeau (Mrs E Grayson, Ashton-Under-Lyne, Lancs). **Dachshund** (miniature smooth): Geltie Floella (Mrs J Forster, Hailsham, E Sussex). **Deerhound:** Aviva Silver Sugi (Mrs L Reilly, Mark, Somerset). **Basset:** Highchart Evening Primrose of Galant (Mrs I Mosbery, Morden, Surrey). **Bloodhound:** Robinswood Thurlow (C Avery, Guildford, Surrey).

Terriers

Australian: Ch Brimartz Castaspell (Mr and Mrs Hodgson and Mr M Murray, Burton-on-Trent, Staffs). **Border:** Ch Fairfoot Mrs Charity Barnum (Mr and Mrs J Taylor, Blackpool). **Bull:** Ch Megavar Masterpiece (Mr C Gardner and Mrs P Gilmour, Fife). **Cairn:** Ch Larchlea Take A Chance On Me (Mrs C Templeton, Kirkintilloch, S'clyde). **Fox Terrier (smooth):** Ch Darlaur Duellist (L Snow, West Glam). **Glen of Imaal:** Malsville Moody Blue of Farni (Mrs O and Mr R Preece, Leominster, Hrfrd & Wrcstr). **Kerry Blue:** Louisburgh Giro At Rismount (IKC) (A Walker and D Prince, Chesterfield, Derbys). **Lakeland:** Raylos Battle Chief (Mr and Mrs P B Greenway, Newark, Notts). **Manchester:** Sophyla Silks And Satin (Mrs L Eva, Maidenhead, Berks). **Parson Jack Russell:** Blencathra Badger (Pjrtc) (P Ross, Keswick, Cumbria). **Scottish:** Ch Wildermist Clara (Mr and Mrs R Taylor, Mexborough, S Yorks). **Sealyham:** Topstage Domino (Mrs B Horn, Penrith, Cumbria). **Soft Coated Wheaten:** Eridanus Amber Rose (Mr and Mrs R C Mckinnon, Wirral, Merseyside). **Staffordshire Bull:** Ch Constones Yer Man (Mr and Mrs A Lee, Knaresborough, N Yorks). **Welsh:** Ch Wasp On Bannerdown (Mrs P Creed, Bath). **West Highland White:** Ch Haweswalton Merry-go-Round (Mrs S Hawes, Ely, Cambs). **Dandie Dinmont Terrier:** Suekrit Golden Slippers (Miss K Leavesley, Kettering, Northants). **Bull Terrier** (minature): Badlesmere Bertie Wooster (Mrs J Shaw, Ashford, Kent). **Norfolk:** Ch Osmor Flintstone (O Morris, Edgbaston, Birmingham). **Norwich:** Ch. Jeeva Cheddar, (Mr M Phillips, Rugby, Warks).

KCJO Final Stakes (Terrier and Hound)

Penparc Precision (Welsh Terrier), (Mr P Wilkinson, West Bromwich); Wilmaleen Wise Wanderer (Whippet), (Mrs J Denby, Sutton in Ashfield, Notts).

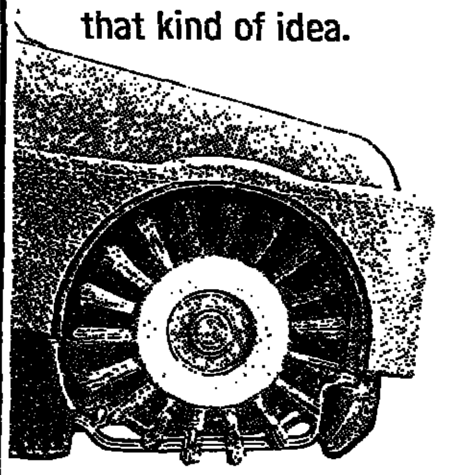
Obedience Championships Dogs

Coltnever Choice (Mrs M Bradley, Sutton in Ashfield, Notts).

● All Crufts winners will be recorded in *The Times*.

Some ideas are so simple you wonder why no one thought of them before.

The brushes on the sides of a Panasonic Wall-to-Wall vacuum cleaner are that kind of idea.



They loosen and lift dirt right up to the edge of your skirting board.

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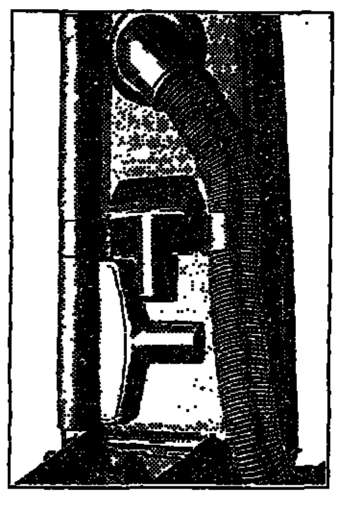

There are also accessories housed within the cleaner itself, big re-useable dust bags with an indicator to tell you when they're full, and a clean air filter.

A vacuum cleaner isn't something you buy everyday.

So before you make a decision, make sure you've checked out the one that'll give you the edge.

Panasonic
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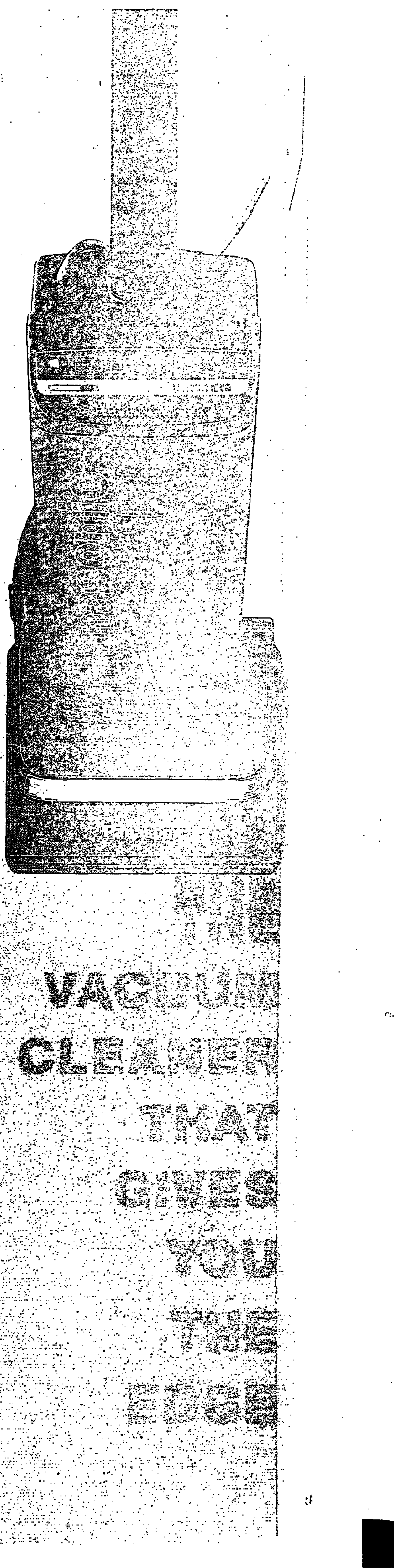
For your nearest stockist see Yellow Pages or Thomson's directories. Panasonic Consumer Electronics UK, Willoughby Road, Bracknell, Berks RG12 4FP (Telephone 0344 853 943).



Options narrow as fears of betrayal weigh heavily on Saddam

By EFRAIM KARSH

THE failure of the six-hour meeting in Geneva between James Baker, America's Secretary of State and Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, has not dashed all hopes that war can still be averted without tangible concessions to President Saddam Hussein.

Such optimism draws on Saddam's reputation as a ruthless pragmatist. He was the architect of a 1975 border demarcation agreement with Tehran, concluded under heavy military pressure, that involved humiliating concessions for Iraq. During the Iran-Iraq war, his instincts for survival drove him to approach Israel (through the American channel) with various requests for support. Nor was Saddam deterred last August from surrendering Iraq's modest territorial gains to Iran.

The argument runs that, as Saddam is a political survivor, he would have no qualms about reversing his policy, should he think it would save his regime.

Saddam is opportunistic, but even his pragmatism has its limits. He did not invade Kuwait for reasons of power-seeking or political aggrandisement. If anything, his occupation stems from anxiety and perennial insecurity and was designed to provide vital financial resources for the economic reconstruction of Iraq, on which his political survival hinges. Contrary to the general view, Iraq did not win the war with Iran. Rather, it emerged from the protracted conflict a crippled nation with a devastated economy. With the passage of time Saddam realised his only chance of overcoming Baghdad's economic predicament — and, thus, of political survival — lay with slashing Iraq's $80 billion (£42 billion) foreign debt.

Consequently he began pressuring the Gulf states, Kuwait in particular, to forgive their $35 billion loans extended to Iraq during the war. Kuwait also came under heavy pressures to reduce its oil production, so as to push up oil prices and, at the same time, to give Baghdad an annual subsidy of about $10 billion. When the Kuwaitis met neither of these demands, Saddam tilted towards the military option.

Saddam, to justify his move, argued that the invasion came in response to a grave Kuwaiti conspiracy against Iraq. To outsiders, this explanation — which was, incidentally, reiterated by Mr Aziz in his meeting with Mr Baker — seems fantastic. However, in the permanently beleaguered mind of the Iraqi leader, where personal interests are nationalised and national interests personalised, the Kuwaiti indifference to his predicament amounted to "stabbing Iraq in the back with a poisoned dagger".

Against this backdrop, one can seriously question Saddam's readiness for an unconditional withdrawal by Tuesday. Such a move would most probably damage his position beyond repair. The economic plight which pushed him to occupy Kuwait has not only remained, but has been aggravated by economic sanctions. Iraq's political system has not become kinder, the nation's patience with its leader must be running thin. Plots are certain to lurk behind each corner.

The alternative bodes equally ill. An all-out war which would destroy Iraq's military machinery and infrastructure is a recipe for Saddam's personal destruction. His only hope, therefore, lies in the collapse of the international coalition before full-scale hostilities break out. Even a small-scale battle involving a "limited" defeat might seem better than unconditional withdrawal. Just as Nasser, the Egyptian leader in 1956, managed to turn his defeat in the Suez campaign into a political victory, so Iraq's loss of Kuwait during the course of hostilities might not be held against Saddam.

Given these considerations, there are only two options to forestall the impending war, both fraught with grave risks. The first would be to offer Saddam a face-saving formula, which he is likely to seize and to claim a victory over "world imperialism". This claim will undoubtedly be the point of view of many in the Arab world and will, consequently, entail far-reaching adverse consequences for the future stability of the Middle East. The other is to make it unequivocally clear to the Iraqi leader that war awaits him, and that such a war would be anything but limited and would stop at nothing short of his removal.

The main risk of such brinkmanship, however, is that Saddam may believe he has more time and room for manoeuvre than he does. Given his proven record of strategic miscalculations, such a mistake is not inconceivable.

The author is lecturer at the Department of War studies, King's College, London. His political biography of Saddam Hussein will be published by Brassey's (London) and the Free Press (New York) in May.

UNITED NATIONS

UN will suggest sending force to oversee Iraqi withdrawal

From GEORGE BROCK IN GENEVA

JAVIER Pérez de Cuéllar, the United Nations secretary-general, said yesterday that when he meets President Saddam Hussein in Baghdad today he would be discussing the possible role of either UN forces or observers during an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

But he made it clear that such intervention would only be contemplated in the context of a complete Iraqi withdrawal from the territory invaded last August, as demanded by resolutions of the UN Security Council. There is as yet no sign of any Iraqi evacuation.

Going into a meeting with European Community foreign ministers, Señor Pérez de Cuéllar said that "once the withdrawal is agreed upon I think I would propose the participation of the UN forces". He added that this might involve a group of observers and perhaps military forces.

Douglas Hogg, the Foreign Office junior minister who has been deputising for Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, who is in the Gulf, later said that the UN secretary-general had discussed two possible kinds of UN intervention. He said that there had been talk of installing peace-keeping forces in Kuwait along the Iraqi-Kuwaiti frontier and also along the Iraqi-Saudi Arabian border. "But," he added, "it makes no kind of sense to interpose peace-keeping forces unless and until there has been total withdrawal."

He said that there is "scope" for UN observers to monitor an Iraqi withdrawal, although any monitoring would have to be very careful and arranged with great speed.

As Señor Pérez de Cuéllar left for Amman and Baghdad, he was ambiguous about what proposals he might be taking to the Iraqi leader. He said that he was "not taking any specific proposals but to listen and to be listened to". He will report back to the EC presidency on his return from Iraq — thought likely to be on Sunday.

João De Deus Pinheiro, the Portuguese foreign minister, said that the plan, to be implemented if Iraq pulls out by January 15, provides that the international community will guarantee no attack, US-led coalition forces will pull out from the Gulf region, UN observer forces will monitor withdrawal, a UN peacekeeping force will move in and a Middle East conference will convene as soon as possible.

The meeting of the EC ministers, which extended both before and after the session with the UN secretary-general, revived the tensions within the Twelve over the nuances of its position on the Gulf. The meeting confirmed the position agreed by the ministers on January 4, when they backed the principles expressed in the 12 UN resolutions. "We added nothing and we subtracted nothing," said Jacques Poos, the Luxembourg foreign minister and current president of the EC. But there remain important differences of emphasis.

Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the German foreign minister, said later: "The key to the Middle East peace conference is in Saddam Hussein's hands."

Mr Hogg said that the core position remained that if Iraq did not withdraw from Kuwait it would be expelled by force. If it pulled back completely, it would not be attacked.

The EC ministers did not foresee any initiatives by individual countries. "There was no question today at our meeting of a French initiative," Mr Poos said.

Memories of Congo colour peace trip

From JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK

WHEN it was announced that Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN secretary-general, had made a last-minute change in his travel plans for security reasons and would be flying to Geneva via Paris a frisson of excitement ran through the United Nations.

For an instant it seemed as though the organisation, only just beginning to get accustomed to its new-found power, was experiencing some of the danger it might entail. Thoughts turned immediately to the death of Señor Pérez de Cuéllar's predecessor, Dag Hammarskjold, in an unexplained plane crash during a peace mission to the Congo in September 1960.

In reality, Señor Pérez de Cuéllar only changed his travel plans to visit President Mitterrand of France. But in many respects, his mission to Iraq is reminiscent of peace efforts by previous secretaries-general, especially Mr Hammarskjold's ill-fated trip.

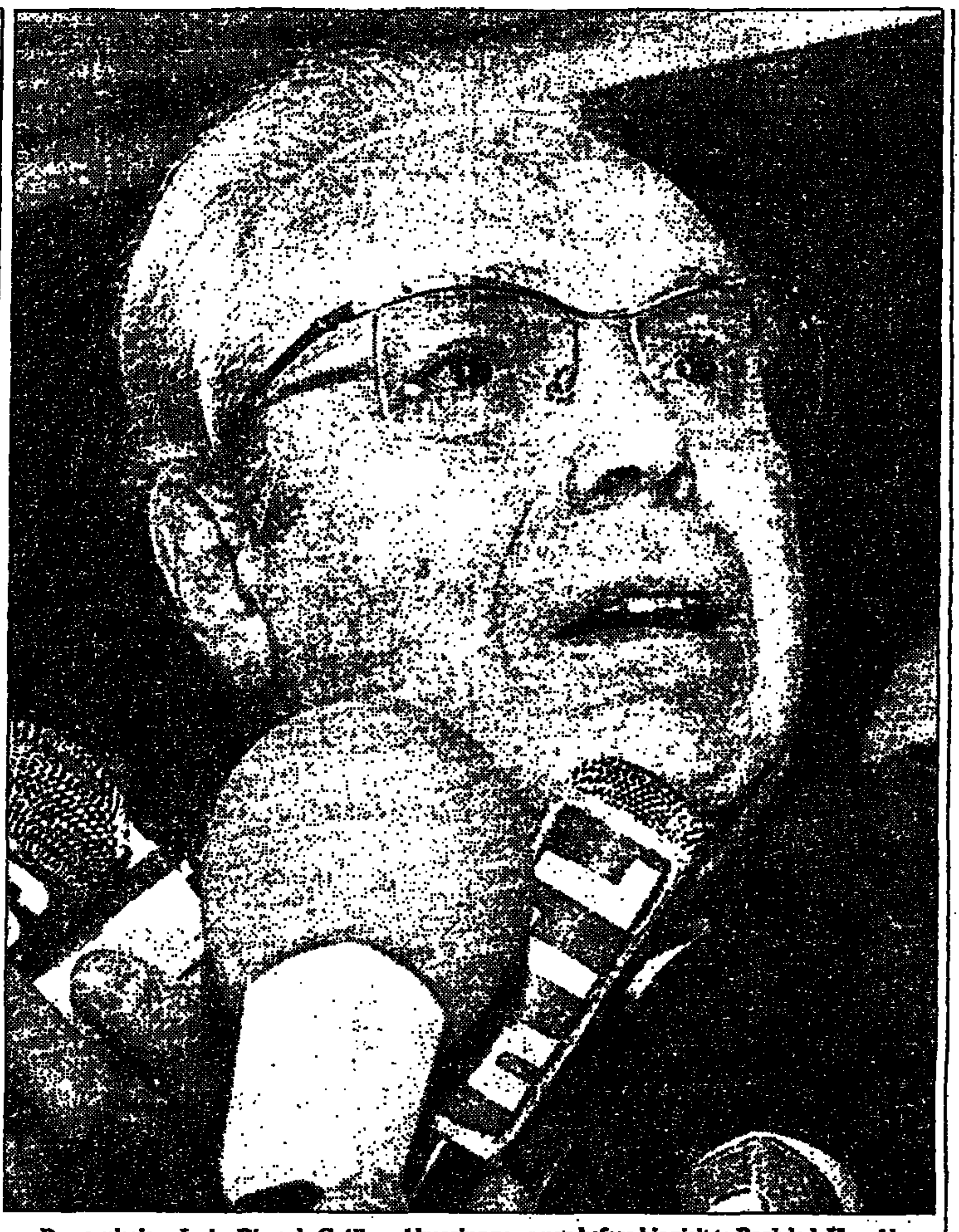
The Congo ended in the death of its most fiercely independent leader. Hammarskjold's plane came down as he flew to Ndole in then Northern Rhodesia to broker a ceasefire with secessionist forces in the Katanga province of the Belgian Congo, which the United Nation was trying to lead to independence. To this day, speculation continues about whether he was shot down.

Some diplomats believe that for the first time since the Congo, the United Nations is an actual party to an international dispute and that complicates Señor Pérez de Cuéllar's mission to Baghdad. "You can't be one of the main players and a mediator," said a senior Western diplomat.

But Brian Urquhart, a Briton who helped found the United Nations and served Hammarskjold, points to a closer parallel with Hammarskjold's successful attempt to obtain the release of 15 American airmen captured by China during the Korean war.

Just as in the Gulf, the UN had taken a stand against China and America was not in contact with its enemy. Although bound by a UN resolution, Hammarskjold went to Peking in 1955 and obtained their release. In doing so, he acted in his capacity as secretary-general, using his own discretion to seek to achieve peace.

"The secretary-general is the servant of everyone, and yet he is independent of everyone," Mr Urquhart said yesterday. "Making a concession to him is not a loss of face. It is simply behaving as a good member of the United Nations." Hammarskjold was the most active of Señor Pérez de Cuéllar's predecessors — intervening also in Suez in 1956 and visiting Lebanon in 1958 — but other secretaries-general have also made high-profile peace missions.



Peace mission: Javier Pérez de Cuéllar addressing newsmen before his visit to Baghdad. He said that he was "not taking any specific proposals but to listen and to be listened to"

Major says time is running out but conflict still not inevitable

By KERRY GILL

JOHN MAJOR, the prime minister, last night admitted in Edinburgh that time was running out for attempts at finding a peaceful solution to the Gulf conflict and expressed his gloom at the prospect of war. "I think that the situation is gloomy and that one has to be pessimistic about the chance of Saddam Hussein withdrawing, but it is not inevitable," he said. "War can be stopped at any moment by Saddam Hussein withdrawing."

Mr Major said the allies had tried various initiatives, but all had been pushed aside by the intransigency of Saddam. "I think it is right for (Javier) Pérez de Cuéllar to go there. I hope even at this late stage that the Iraqis will withdraw from Kuwait ... but if that isn't the way it is to be, then there can be no doubt in anyone's mind that our troops will forcibly remove him from Kuwait."

Mr Major said he would meet James Baker, the American Secretary of State, at RAF Alconbury tomorrow. People should not read too much significance into the meeting; it was one of a series the British government had held with United States officials, he said.

Commenting on threats of terrorism in Britain should war break out, Mr Major said: "We are aware of that danger ... Clearly we are aware of the danger that if there were hostilities there might be an attempt by terrorists to misbehave both here and on the Continent and in the United States, of course. We are well aware of that possibility and we are well prepared for it but you will understand if I say no more than that."

Mr Major said he hoped the UN peace mission was successful, in spite of the imminent deadline. "If it is possible to settle peaceably and have the Iraqis withdraw from Kuwait, that is clearly the best thing to happen. I hope very much it succeeds."

Driving force: John Major, watched by his wife, Norma, in the seat of a mock cockpit at GEC Ferranti yesterday

GENEVA NOTEBOOK by George Brock

All the world's a stage in city of restraint

The stage machinery of international diplomacy is falling into place in a city which has had the lion's share of negotiations this century. The lakeside home of countless international organisations was not only keen to host the Baker-Aziz talks, but senses that there may be more of the same to come in the next few months.

The manager of the Intercontinental Hotel (also George Shultz's favourite Geneva backdrop) looked radiant this week as his plate-glass block was briefly invaded by the American and Iraqi travelling caravans.

The American-Iraqi circus moved on and was replaced yesterday by the UN-European show. The European apparatus sprouts less high technology. There are fewer walkie-talkies, the snakes of black Mercedes limousines are shorter, and there is no sniffing by Bernie, the US Secret Service dog. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN secretary-general, swept out of town trailing the European foreign ministers in his wake. But Geneva is sure they will be back.

For a country which has preserved its peace more successfully than almost any other European state, Switzerland has a peace movement which is so restrained as to be almost invisible. Opposite the silent and opulent Kuwaiti embassy, 150 demonstrators blocked the road outside the Baker-Aziz meeting. A few yards further on, an unkempt villa had hung white sheets from the trees by the gate: peace charms to ward off the spirits of war. A "peace camp" was briefly set up on the patch of grass in front of the Palais des Nations. It was the tidiest I have ever seen. More work for peace is done by the Swiss government, who chartered the plane in which Señor Pérez de Cuéllar flew to Baghdad.

The first new word of the Gulf confrontation was coined by a Frenchman: *l'après-crise*, as in après-ski. This describes the crucial period of negotiation after any fighting which might take place. It is crucial if, as the French are, you are trying to concentrate everybody's attention on the period in which a wider Middle East peace conference might be organised.

UNITED STATES

Bush sends Israel top-level warning to keep lying low

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush is sending one of his most senior officials to Jerusalem, apparently to emphasise that despite the obvious threat to its security Israel must not launch a pre-emptive strike against Iraq which could shatter the international coalition.

His decision to dispatch Lawrence Eagleburger, the deputy Secretary of State, followed Wednesday's declaration by Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, that Iraq would not hesitate to attack Israel in the event of war. The White House said it took such threats seriously. On Thursday, Mr Bush telephoned Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, and urged Israel to continue to lie low and stay out of the Gulf confrontation.

An Israeli pre-emptive strike, which might involve its warplanes flying over Jordan and Syria, would play into Saddam's hands by turning the conflict into an Arab-Israeli confrontation, placing the coalition's Arab members in an impossible position. Despite recent high-level discussions between Washington and Jerusalem, officials here remain concerned that Israel might strike first if it believed it was about to be attacked.

Washington has promised that the US would retaliate if Iraq attacked Israel before the coalition attacked Iraq. To forestall an attack on Israel after a coalition offensive had begun, the US would try to destroy Iraq's Scud missiles on the ground in the first hours.

According to Les Aspin, chairman of the House armed services committee, Mr Shamir has agreed to limit Israel's retaliation if it is hit by Iraqi missiles, and the coalition's Arab members would accept that. "It would be an eye-for-an-eye retaliation or, given the Israelis, probably two eyes for an eye. That the Arabs can live with. They don't want Israel in the war on a daily basis," he said.

President Bush said last month that he was "convinced the coalition would not fall apart" if Saddam launched an attack on Israel. "I can't give you the specifics on it, but I'm absolutely convinced of it, and you can assume, the way I've answered the question, that we've enquired about that," he said.

In other developments, President Ozal of Turkey claimed yesterday that nearly 800 Iraqi soldiers had defected to his country, which shares a border with Iraq, since the Gulf confrontation began. Predicting a short war, he told the *Washington Times* that the deserters "all say how demoralised the entire army is. Their planes seldom fly and their tanks move as little as possible as they are short of spare parts. They have never really experienced air attacks as Iran had very few serviceable aircraft. And they tell us that their army would cut and run when faced with the overwhelming, massive firepower of the coalition forces."

Richard Cheney, the US defence secretary, gave warning that in seeking to liberate Kuwait, American forces might carry the battle into Iraq itself. The US was not seeking "to conquer Iraq ... or occupy Baghdad," he said. "But we are prepared, if we have to ... to expel him (Saddam) from Kuwait. And in doing so he should understand that there is no sanctuary inside Iraq itself."

Details are emerging of Wednesday's meeting in Geneva between Mr Aziz and James Baker, the American Secretary of State. Participants said Mr Baker spent more than two hours setting out Washington's case for an Iraqi withdrawal, starkly outlining the coalition's military capabilities. He told Mr Aziz: "Don't think, if war comes, this will be parallel to your previous experience ... Understand what you're up against."

JAPAN

Kaifu stays put to seek a solution

From JOE JOSEPH
IN TOKYO

TOSHIKI KAIFU, the Japanese prime minister, yesterday cancelled a trip through Asia he was to start tomorrow because, he told cabinet colleagues, he had decided to stay in Tokyo to pursue a peaceful Gulf solution.

Nobody seems to know what Japan really thinks about events in the Gulf, and to many Western policymakers, the nation has again been tested and found wanting. Tokyo has been demanding a superpower's say in international politics, but its low diplomatic profile since the Kuwait invasion has made many Japanese aware that they still lack the will to occupy centre stage.

In a remark that captures the mood in Japan, however, Akio Morita, chairman of the Sony electronics and film empire, said: "Our Japanese economy is quite good enough to absorb some influence (from a war) by increasing our domestic demand. So I'm not pessimistic, as Japan can stand on its own two feet."

Scholars of Islam allot places in hell

Nicosia — Moderate Muslim religious leaders urged President Saddam Hussein yesterday to withdraw his troops from Kuwait "now not tomorrow" to prevent war in the Gulf. They also called on Saddam's one-million-strong army to disobey their leader. "Otherwise, they are losers whose place is in hell," they said.

In a statement, issued after a three-day meeting in the holy city of Mecca, the religious scholars said Muslims should never forgive Saddam for invading a fellow Muslim country. The statement was carried by the Saudi press agency and received in Cyprus.

"It is a sin to show that Islam is a religion that condones oppression," it said. "Our bold word to Saddam Hussein is: leave Kuwait ... leave now not tomorrow." The participants also said the decision by Saudi Arabia to invite foreign troops was justified by threats to their security. *(Reuter)*

Patriot missiles

Amsterdam — The Netherlands plans to send two squadrons of conventional ground-to-air Patriot missiles to Turkey to help defend that country from a possible Iraqi attack. A defence ministry spokesman said the squadrons, each comprising five missile systems, would be sent in the next few days. *(Reuter)*

Spanish leave

Madrid — Spain began moves to evacuate its nationals from the Middle East, with 20 expected to leave Dubai for Madrid aboard a military plane and 300 more to be flown out over the weekend. The foreign ministry said about 300 Spanish citizens had asked to be evacuated. Spain's ambassador to Iraq, Ignacio López de Chicheri, has left the Iraqi capital for Amman. But the embassy continues to remain open. *(Reuter)*

Reagan's plea

Washington — Former President Reagan said he believed there would be war with Iraq and has urged Congress to support President Bush's policy of using force if necessary. "Congress should pass a resolution that they will be behind the president if (he) has to take military action," Mr Reagan said in an television interview in Los Angeles. *(Reuter)*

Cyprus refuge

Nicosia — Cyprus will provide facilities for foreigners fleeing the Gulf and Middle East as hundreds of people began arriving here. A government communiqué said police and security forces have been placed on alert. Special arrangements have been taken at Cyprus hospitals to treat sick and injured. *(AFP)*

هكذا من الإصل

هكذا من الأصل

ISRAEL

Tel Aviv sees dangers in lack of US air liaison

From RICHARD OWEN IN JERUSALEM

CO-OPERATION between Israel and the United States on the Gulf is so poor that Israeli warplanes may be in danger of colliding with allied aircraft in the event of war, Israel's leading defence commentator said yesterday.

Zeev Schiff, of the newspaper *Haaretz*, said Israel and America had not arranged even "minimal co-operation and co-ordination". He said the exchange of information and intelligence had improved, but "operational co-ordination" had not. "The result is that, if Israel is compelled to defend itself and respond to an Iraqi attack, there is a danger that Americans and Israelis will engage each other in the air by accident."

In a telephone conversation this week with Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, President Bush undertook to defend Israel if Iraq attacked. But Mr Schiff said Israeli defence officials were concerned about the lack of co-operation, and had repeatedly raised the matter at a senior level in Washington to no avail.

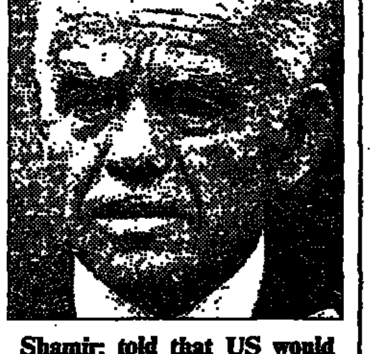
Haaretz said sorties by Iraqi aircraft into Israeli airspace would take two and a half hours, with attacking aircraft flying low to evade Israeli radar. Moreover, although the Iraqi air force had more than 700 aircraft, only 25 of its Su24 bombers were capable of operating against Israel.

"It can be assumed that the Iraqi air force commanders will not be prepared to endanger the greater part of this bomber force in a mission from which the chances of returning are not high," the paper said. Iraqi aircraft flying to Israel would be detected by American Awacs aircraft and the information would be immediately relayed to Israel, giving the Israeli air force time to intercept.

Haaretz said Iraq had prepared 50 launching pads along the Jordanian border from which its Al Hussein missiles could be launched at Israel. But Israel or America would respond with a paralysing strike before the Iraqis could prepare a second launch. "Whatever happens, Israel will not be taken by surprise."

The launching of a ballistic missile required at least one hour's preparation, including setting the missile's guidance system. This preparation might be detected by American satellites, enabling Israel to strike before the missiles were even launched.

If the missiles did reach Israeli urban areas with conventional warheads, they would each cause about ten casualties. Chemical warheads could cause up to 2,000 casualties if the population was unprotected and unprepared. But the Israeli population had taken substantial precautions, and casualties would be much lower.



Shamir: told that US would defend Israel from an attack

Americans advised to leave Israel

From OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT IN JERUSALEM

WHILE Israelis yesterday stepped up preparations for war, thousands of Americans in Israel were advised by the American embassy in Tel Aviv to leave. An embassy spokesman said the families of US government employees in Israel had been "authorised to leave on a voluntary basis" and other US passport holders "should consider leaving".

Israeli defence officials said Israel was operating on the assumption Iraq would carry out its threat to strike at Israel, even though this invited certain destruction in retaliation.

In a rare television appearance, General Avihu Bin-Nun, the Israeli air force commander, said Israeli pilots were in their cockpits and ready to go. He said Israel had received two batteries of advanced Patriot surface-to-air missiles, and added: "We will be able, I believe, to keep our skies clear of the enemy."

The broadcast was seen as a departure from Israel's low profile over the Gulf confrontation. The general mood among Israelis remains relatively calm. The main fear is that Iraq will launch long-range missiles against Tel Aviv, though probably not Jerusalem, which has Islamic holy sites.

Israel radio confirmed reports over the past week of congestion at Tel Aviv airport as foreigners queue to leave. Ten airlines, including the American airline Pan Am but not TWA, have suspended air services to Israel. German, Dutch, Swedish and other nationals have already been advised by their governments to leave.

Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, said "extraordinary events" were possible after Tuesday. He appealed to people not to panic but to carry on normally.

LEBANON

Confidence in Karami hit as minister quits

From JUAN CARLOS GUMUCIO IN BEIRUT

CONFIDENCE in the future of the new Lebanese government was limited last night after the sudden resignation of a key Druze cabinet minister amid the increasingly defiant boycott of the country's leading Christian politicians.

Walid Jumblatt, leader of the Druze Progressive Socialist Party, quit as minister without portfolio in the half-Christian, half-Muslim cabinet of Omar Karami, the prime minister, saying that he would like to "stay away from politics for some time". He cited personal reasons for his decision, but it was seen in Beirut as a result of bitter disputes within the government of "national reconciliation" born on Christmas eve with the mission to end more than 15 years of civil war.

Mr Jumblatt's resignation dealt a severe blow to Mr Karami's prestige and is likely to erode the credibility of President Hrawi and his plans to pacify and reorganise Lebanon with the help of his strong allies in Syria.

Last night it was also seen as a embarrassment carefully planned by Mr Jumblatt: on Thursday, during the annual reception for foreign ambassadors, Mr Hrawi had spoken with extraordinary optimism on the bright political future of Lebanon. "Rest assured, excellencies, that the war in Lebanon is over," he told them.

Mr Jumblatt's departure will not be lamented by the president or Mr Karami. He had become an uncomfortable and volatile element in the new cabinet and his accusations of official corruption, nepotism and incompetence were gaining popular appeal.

Much of the tne stability of the government, which had barely obtained a vote of confidence in parliament three days ago, now depends largely on Mr Hrawi's ability to overcome the combined challenge of the Maronites and Christians. Their leaders, Samir Geagea, the chief of the Lebanese Forces militia and Georges Saade, president of the Phalange Party, refused to take up their posts as minister without portfolio and minister of post and telecommunications respectively, charging that the government is totally conrolled by Syria.

CHRIS HARRIS

Ratpack in the desert: members of the British press corps, *suitably attired*, get acclimatised for what might become a long stint in the sand and sun

Petrol prices begin to rise

By KEVIN EASON
MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S big oil companies last night signalled the start of rapidly increasing petrol prices with a rise at the pumps of 6.8p a gallon.

Shell, BP and Esso, the three market leaders, followed Texaco and put the price of four-star petrol up to 206.4p a gallon (45.4p a litre) and unleaded to 192.8p a gallon (42.4p a litre).

The move nudges petrol just 1.6p a gallon over the price at the pumps when Iraq invaded Kuwait at the start of August.

Other major oil companies with High Street forecourts will now move their prices into line over the next few days as fears deepen over the prospects of a Gulf war. The industry gave a warning that yesterday's rises will be one of many pushing petrol as high as £3.25 a gallon as markets become increasingly nervous.

The previous highest price of 239.6p was reached in mid-October but had fallen back dramatically by early December.

Since then, the price of bulk petrol supplies from the Rotterdam spot market has been edging upwards again, putting pressure on oil companies who say profits on garage forecourts have been under severe pressure.

Roy Reynolds, managing director of Shell UK Oil, said that since mid-December prices on the Rotterdam market had risen steadily "to a point where Shell can no longer hold pump prices at their current level". He added: "When Rotterdam prices fall, we shall, as always, quickly pass the reduction to motorists."

Meanwhile, plans to produce oil from wells drilled in Singleton Forest, near Chichester, West Sussex, were announced yesterday. Kelt UK Limited wants to develop exploratory bore holes, which have already produced oil, and drill up to four more wells at a cost of £1 million each.

The company said permission would be needed from the energy department before commercial production could start.

● **Global effect:** The Meteorological Office yesterday discounted recent predictions of environmental catastrophe in the wake of a Gulf war. Fires in Kuwait's oil wells, thought to have been mined by the Iraqis, would be unlikely to affect the global climate, the Met Office said in an official report to government departments.

UNITED STATES

President lobbies Congress as it prepares for war vote

From PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, IN WASHINGTON

TODAY the Congress of the United States is to vote on Gulf resolutions which could crucially define the extent of American support for war. As President Bush lobbied both friends and opponents on Capitol Hill, it was not clear whether his request for a united voice against Saddam Hussein would prevail.

Mr Bush's best hope appeared to rest in the House of Representatives, more than a hundred of whose members were invited to a snow-bound White House breakfast yesterday. Conservative Southern Democrats and Northern liberals with links to Israel seemed likely to tip the House in favour of the minority Republicans and the president.

Democrats in the Senate, skilfully led by their leader, George Mitchell of Maine, and Sam Nunn of Georgia, chairman of the Senate armed services committee, have kept their party more closely together, co-ordinating their tactics carefully with Israeli supporters such as Carl Levin of Michigan. A number of Southern Democrats support the president, including Charles Robb of Virginia and Bennett Johnston of Louisiana, but none has emerged as the much-needed influential "hawk" who can sway undecided voters. Senator Nunn, on the other hand, does have a following among moderate and conservative senators, based on his long support of strong defence against the Soviet Union. He is accused by critics of merely courting the activist wing of the Democratic party in preparation for the 1992 presidential primaries. But critics within the administration are careful how they express themselves.

White House aides look back nostalgically to the days when Henry "Scoop" Jackson helped Republican presidents through the Cold War. In private, they rail at the "Vietnam Democrats" and their peace-at-any-price policies. They insist that a favourable vote is not necessary for the president to commit American forces to battle. In public, however, an atmosphere of bipartisanship is necessary.

Members of the Senate have shown themselves especially sensitive to their constitutional prerogatives on the declaration of war. Several speakers argued that if, after decades of allowing a high degree of presidential freedom, Congress did not reassert its rights, those rights would be relegated to history. The resolution sponsored by Senators Mitchell and Nunn calls for continued application of sanctions and diplomacy to force Iraq from Kuwait. It also demands that Congress be consulted before the initiation of hostilities. By last night it had gathered momentum, propelled by a scholarly speech by Mr Nunn in in which he drily attacked the notion that Kuwait was a "vital" American interest worth the loss of American life and argued that, just as the sanctions policy could not be guaranteed to succeed, nor could the policy of war.

The Republican counter-attack is is on three fronts. In addition to the president's personal lobbying, Robert Dole of Kansas, the Senate minority leader, yesterday deployed William Webster, the director of the CIA, to argue that sanctions were unlikely to compel Iraq to withdraw. At the back of his armoury is the threat of a filibuster today in which a small group of Republicans can prevent a vote by talking ad infinitum.

The White House hopes a filbuster will not be needed, and that America's legislators, having expressed their doubts and covered their backs, will support the president's UN-approved policy. Until the votes are counted, however, the lobbying will continue.

Poll shows British public backs use of force to retake Kuwait

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

THREE-quarters of the British public believe that allied forces should be used to retake Kuwait by force, and more than half the public believe that invasion should follow immediately after the January 15 deadline, according to a new Mori poll.

Recent surveys in France and Belgium have shown opposition to military action. But in Britain 58 per cent of those polled believed that allied forces should remove President Saddam Hussein from power, even if he does withdraw his forces from Kuwait.

The Mori poll, conducted for the Free Kuwait Campaign on Wednesday and Thursday this week, brings good news for the government. There is a high satisfaction rating for ministerial efforts over the Gulf confrontation, with 64 per cent satisfied and only 27 per cent dissatisfied with the way the government is handling the situation. This compares with a rating of 51:41 for the American government's efforts, 57:31 for the United Nations response and 43:39 for the way Arab nations opposed to Saddam have handled the situation. The British government thus has a net satisfaction rating of 37, compared with 26 for the UN, 10 for the Americans and 4 for the Arab allies.

The additional bonus for John Major is that the poll, taken as the prime minister returned from his well-publicised trip to the Gulf, shows the Conservatives back in a 2 per cent lead over Labour.

A Mori poll a fortnight ago showed Labour leading on 45 per cent support to 41 per cent, and commentators were swift to assert that the Major government's honeymoon had ended. But the latest Mori poll shows voting intention at: Conservatives 44 per cent, Labour 42 per cent, Liberal Democrats 11 per cent, Green party 2 per cent, Nationalists 1 per cent and others 1 per cent.

It may be that growing signs of a split in Labour's ranks over support for military action in the Gulf are boosting the government, at a time when ability to handle a Gulf war is the dominant question. There is remarkable solidity in public support for the removal of Saddam from Kuwait. A Mori poll in November found that 69 per cent cared very much about the removal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait and 20 per cent cared a little, much more than the 54 per cent who at the time said they cared very much about recovery of the Falklands.

Q: How likely or unlikely do you think it is that there will be a military conflict with Iraq involving British forces within the next month?

	Nov 1990 %	Dec 1990 %	Jan 1991 %
Very likely	25	50	63
Fairly likely	32	29	29
Neither likely nor unlikely	4	5	2
Fairly unlikely	22	10	5
Very unlikely	10	4	1
Don't know	6	2	1
Very/fairly likely	57	79	92
Very/fairly unlikely	32	14	6

Source: Mori

Forces chiefs agree tactics

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A WAR plan has been drawn up and agreed on by the politicians and military commanders involved in the campaign to force the Iraqis out of Kuwait. Tactical commanders, however, are being told only the details that affect their units.

American and British officials are convinced that the coalition against Iraq is still solidly behind the United Nations Security Council resolutions demanding the total withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait. Militarily, however, there is some doubt about how many Muslim units will go forward into Kuwait. Even Egypt, one of the most stalwart members of the coalition, has not committed itself to offensive action but merely to a peacekeeping role in Kuwait. Egyptian forces will not enter Iraqi territory.

The war plan, designed in consultation with Saudi Arabian and British commanders by General Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of the American forces, and his headquarters staff, has been disclosed to both Western and Arab coalition partners, according to military sources.

However, operational details have been distributed selectively. For example, the Syrian commander in the Saudi Arabian desert, responsible for a paratroop brigade and an armoured division, has been given only the details that directly affect his units and their expected role in a war with Iraq.

Lieutenant-General Sir Peter de la Billière, commander of the British forces in the Gulf, has been meeting General Schwarzkopf every day at the joint forces headquarters in Riyadh. His advice on tactics has influenced the plan. But it is possible that even he does not know every aspect of it.

General Schwarzkopf's main objective in the first few days of an attack will be to launch up to 2,000 air raids a day on key Iraqi military and industrial sites, it is widely expected. The targets in Iraq would include air bases, armament factories, supply lines, communication centres, ballistic-missile launch sites, missile assembly plants, railways, roads and President Saddam Hussein's bunkers.

Another key target will be Saddam's elite Republican Guard divisions on the Iraq-Kuwait border. According to military sources, if Saddam fears he is facing defeat he will want to preserve his eight guard divisions, since they are his greatest military asset.

"It is possible that Saddam will withdraw these divisions to ensure they are intact if he has to give up Kuwait," one source said. "He will then at least be able to satisfy himself that his most loyal troops are still around to support his regime."

American, British and Saudi bombers would be used to terrorise and demoralise the Iraqi forces in Kuwait with continuous pounding of their defensive positions. Giant B52s would fly in low to drop their huge payloads of 1,000lb and 2,000lb bombs.

The bombing could last up to two weeks, following a complex formula in which different squadrons would be assigned a variety of targets. The French have already been asked to ground their Mirage F1 jets while the air-superiority battle is fought, because of the danger of confusing them with identical Iraqi planes.

MIDDLE EAST OBSERVER

Hopes rest on Saddam's keen sense of survival

THERE was a time in Baghdad when it could be said with certainty that President Saddam Hussein had a keen sense of survival. Such a time was, for example, March 1975, when he suddenly decided to concede to Iran navigational rights in the southern Shatt al-Arab waterway in return for the Shah cutting off aid to a Kurdish uprising in northern Iraq.

Today as Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN secretary-general, arrives at the presidential palace in Baghdad to intercede with Saddam on behalf of the rest of the world, the elder statesman of international diplomacy will no doubt hope that his host's sense of survival has not deserted him. But the UN emissary cannot be confident in his hope. Saddam is older by almost 16 years and seems impatient to realise his dream of dominance over "the Arab nation" sooner rather than later.

Saddam knows, too, that if he is forced to withdraw from Kuwait, the West will be reluctant to *forget* his costly trespass and return Iraq to the "most favoured nation" status it enjoyed before August 2 last year. Before that date, Baghdad was estimated to be in debt to the tune of at least $65 billion (£34.2 billion), including $15 billion to Kuwait. Since then, Saddam has not sold a single barrel of oil.

What guarantee will there be that if Saddam grants the wish of Señor Pérez de Cuéllar and recalls his soldiers from Kuwait, the world will unfreeze his assets, "restructure" his debts and grant him new credits?

Under such circumstances, his country's development — by which Saddam nearly always means military development — will come to a halt and the prospects of expanding Iraq territorially will recede.

Thus, while Señor Pérez de Cuéllar's appearances on Baghdad television paying respectful homage to the court of the would-be caliph will boost the Iraqi leader's ego, his intercession will not, by itself, weigh heavily on Saddam's mind. What will really interest Saddam will be to see whether he carries any messages from Washington. Would, for example, the US promise to press Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to write off Iraq's debts, and would Western oil companies buy Iraqi oil at high enough prices to ensure the continuity of Iraq's "development"?

The fate of the Palestinians will be the mere slogan it always was, unless, of course, the United Nations does not send the kind of messages Saddam wants to hear.

In the end, it may well be the case that, even if Saddam has retained his survival instincts, he may be convinced that no such choice faces him any longer and that he either wins Kuwait — and with it the eventual leadership of the Arab world — or loses everything, including his life.

Hazhir Teimourian

Budget deal clears way for Kohl to form government

From IAN MURRAY IN BONN

AFTER weeks of internal wrangling since the all-German election on December 2, the three victorious coalition parties have at last reached a cornerstone agreement on how to fund the soaring cost of unification, which will form the basis of a programme Helmut Kohl hopes to propose to the Bundestag on Friday, so that he can be confirmed as chancellor and name his new government.

This delay means that Germany, at best, will still not have a new government until two days after the expiry of Tuesday's United Nations deadline for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait.

Germany's protracted coalition arguments have been the main reason for Herr Kohl not concentrating much on the Gulf emergency. The new budget agreement, however, appears to have brought a settlement in sight. "I think we are well on the way, and that is good in view of the international situation," Volker Rühe, general secretary of Herr Kohl's Christian Democrats, said.

The agreement means German workers earning an average DM3,500 a month will have to pay about DM20 (£6.90) a month towards the cost of unification, despite pre-election promises by Herr Kohl that taxes would not be increased to pay for it. The money is needed to help limit the federal budget deficit to DM70 billion against finance ministry estimates that unification will cost DM105 billion, more than the tax revenue expected this year.

Figures released yesterday showed that the economy in western Germany grew by 4.6 per cent last year, compared with a growth of 3.9 per cent in 1989, the biggest increase for eight years. The trend is continuing with the constant need to satisfy consumer demand in eastern Germany, suggesting that Herr Kohl's election predictions of creating a flourishing economy in the east within five years may well come true, although the need to import the materials to make this possible has all but eliminated Germany's usual trade surplus.

With DM35 billion to find, the three coalition parties have agreed it is still impossible to slash spending by more than DM15 billion and that an extra DM20 billion must therefore be raised.

Given that dole payments are proving the largest single burden on available resources, the parties decided the fairest way to raise DM18.3 billion is to increase unemployment insurance contributions by 2.5 per cent to 6.8 per cent from April. Technically this is not a tax increase and does not break Herr Kohl's pre-election promise. To compensate in part for the rise, pension contributions are being cut by 1 per cent. "Overall you cannot say this is a big sacrifice for unity," Herr Rühe said.

Most of the extra revenue still needed is being raised by increasing by DM2 billion the annual revenue the telecommunications industry pays the state, leading to strong protests as it makes increased telephone charges inevitable. Just over half the remaining DM15 billion will come from the defence budget, to be frozen at the 1990 level of DM52.6 billion.

Sea escape: foreign evacuees, including 35 Egyptian teachers, disembark from the cargo vessel Venetis Universal in Mombasa, Kenya, after sailing from Somalia. A Korean diplomat died in the Somali capital of Mogadishu, caught in fighting between government and rebel troops

Peking tries worker for 'rebellion'

From CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

PEKING'S Intermediate Court yesterday opened preliminary hearings on Liu Zihou, a worker arrested after the Tiananmen mass killings on June 4, 1989, and is charged with armed rebellion.

This is the first public trial of anyone on these charges and in "particularly monstrous" cases the crime is punishable by death. Until now, workers involved in the 1989 unrest have been tried on charges of violence and destruction of state property. Some have been executed.

Mr Liu, aged 33, who worked at the Peking Aquatic Products Company, was one of the leading members of the Capital Workers' Special Pickets Corps and the Peking Citizens' Hunger Strike Corps. Both groups were attacked in the Chinese press for erecting road blocks.

Albanians under Serbian yoke pin hopes on Tirana

From RICHARD BASSETT IN PRIZREN, YUGOSLAVIA

ALBANIA'S belated and confused steps towards reform are being followed closely in neighbouring Kosovo.

The 1½ million ethnic Albanians who make up nine-tenths of the population of the region of Yugoslavia have always enjoyed a special relationship with their kinsmen beyond the mountains to the south. During the second world war, after the Axis invasion of Yugoslavia, the region was joined to Albania for a time.

But when the communists seized power in Albania, many Albanians fled to Kosovo, which was incorporated into Tito's Yugoslavia. As Albania sank deeper into stalinist oppression, Kosovo enjoyed some autonomy and the freedom of Tito's brand of market communism.

Today, however, in the wake of Serbia's ruthless policy of direct rule, which has closed most Kosovo institutions, including the parliament and broadcasting stations, the Kosovars for the first time look with hope beyond the mountains at events in Albania.

Ramiz Nosi, a student of English at the university in Pristina before the faculty was closed by the Serbs, said: "We are not convinced that Alia (the Albanian leader) will change things deeply. But at least something is moving over there. Here we are an occupied province, almost like Kuwait."

He and other intellectuals in Kosovo point to the dismissal of hundreds of ethnic Albanian doctors and teachers and their replacement by Serbs. Over the past two months, 49 or more schools have been closed after teachers refused to adopt a Serbian curriculum. Violence between ethnic Albanians and Serbs has been prevented only by the influence of moderate Albanian politicians such as Shqlezin Malici. Mr Malici, however, is pessimistic. "Moderate Albanians cannot control the situation here much longer in view of what is happening in Albania," he said.

The leaders of the new opposition party in Albania, the former communists Gramoz Pashko and Seri Berisha, are aware of the importance of Kosovo for Albania. Mr Pashko described the Kosovars as the only Albanians with knowledge of the outside world and a level of political culture.

Both men, with Albania's ruling communists, deny that they have territorial claims on Kosovo. But as the Serbs drive the ethnic Albanians into a corner in Kosovo, the issue of a "greater Albania" is inevitably raised. One teacher said: "By 2000 there will be more Albanians, thanks to our birth rate, than Serbs. We are the late-emerging nation of the Balkans. Unity one day is inevitable."

Bucharest protest by opposition

Bucharest — In the first anti-government demonstration of the year in Bucharest, 4,000 people gathered in the city's central Revolution Square (Tim Judah writes).

The rally was called by Romania's main extra-parliamentary opposition grouping, the Civic Alliance, to express support for the western city of Timisoara, which for the last month has been beset by strikes and anti-government demonstrations.

The rally was addressed by the student leader, Marian Munteanu.

Convoy attack

Harare — Official sources said that 10 people were feared dead when Renamo guerrillas attacked eight trucks on the road linking Malawi with Zimbabwe through Mozambique's Tete province.

Riots in Greece

Athens — The prime minister, Constantine Mitsotakis, went ahead with visits to Bulgaria and Albania, despite student riots in Athens, the worst since military rule ended in 1974.

Ceasefire ends

Colombo — Security forces resumed military action against Tamil rebels in northern Sri Lanka, after a 10-day ceasefire collapsed. *(Reuter)*

Basque bombs

Bayonne — French Basque separatists claimed responsibility for bomb attacks which damaged tourist sites and estate agencies in south-west France. *(Reuter)*

Civic Forum split on taking party route

From CHRIS POMERY IN PRAGUE

CIVIC Forum, the coalition of citizens' committees that overthrew the communist government in Czechoslovakia a little over a year ago, will try to resolve a host of long-standing differences at a congress this weekend.

At root, however, the congress is a test of confidence in the forum's president, Vaclav Klaus, a free-market economist who is in favour of turning the group into a proper political party.

Mr Klaus is distrusted by many of the forum's old guard, often identified with Prague intellectuals such as President Havel, founder of the Charter 77 dissident movement, who want a slower transition to a market economy and to retain the forum's loose structure.

A compromise between the two factions was announced yesterday. It marks the first stage of the forum's transformation into a political party, with the creation of a central policy platform. The role of traditional discussion clubs within the movement will be diminished.

"We need to find out who is for the forum and who is against us," said Mr Klaus. Relations between the factions are strained in an increasingly personal conflict, exacerbated by Mr Klaus's combative style. The forum's old guard retains a visceral distaste of formal structures and party membership cards, tainted associations with the communist years. Mr Klaus, however, clearly intends to move Civic Forum towards a formal party structure as part of a Western-style parliamentary democracy.

Mr Klaus's supporters say Civic Forum has to adapt to new conditions. Opponents retain a strong utopianism, the strongest still surviving in any of the old Eastern bloc states, and fear social disruption as prices rise and wages are frozen.

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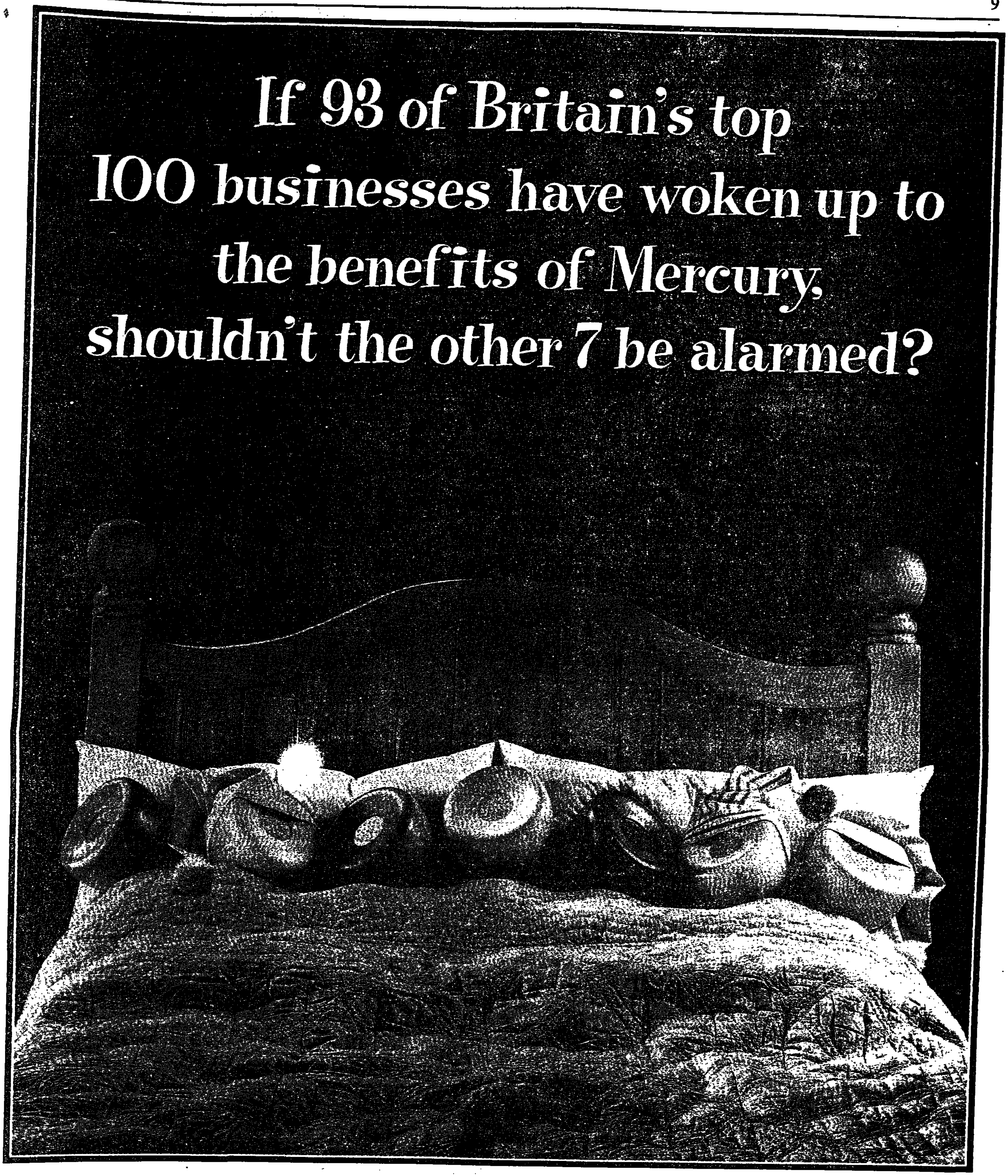

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Clifford Longley

When might is moral

In the desert, but not for the moment in the Gulf, a sheriff comes upon a lynching. He draws his revolver on the mob. He fires, and someone falls dead. The mob flees. The absolute at issue here, morally, is "Thou shalt not kill", and legally, the crime of murder. Taken in isolation from the rest, it seems that the sheriff is in the wrong.

But how does the sheriff describe his actions, morally and legally? He says he prevented a lynching, and unfortunately a man died. And in justification he too would say "Thou shalt not kill".

Thus any judgment of his conduct will depend on how widely the frame is drawn. To put a line round the shooting alone is to define it as murder. Neither law nor morality permits murder, and it is no answer to such a charge to say that on the whole the consequences were good. To draw it round the whole event, however, is to accept the sheriff's version. In this case the law would permit an enquiry into the sheriff's motives and the result of his action, and would find that he had deterred would-be lynchers. Morality, if it had any sense, would say the same. So the wrong conclusion, that the sheriff had committed murder, comes from drawing the frame too narrowly, ignoring context and consequences.

But it may be drawn more narrowly even than that. What the sheriff actually did was to move *one finger. Everything else was a consequence of that. And in itself* moving a finger is neither a crime nor a sin.

Thus the same incident may be *judged, both morally and legally,* in different ways depending on what is considered to be the defining boundary of the incident. If none of the consequences is incorporated into the definition of the incident, so that it is reduced to a finger movement, or if all of them are, so that it is seen as the prevention of a lynching, it is not morally wrong. If some of the consequences are deemed part of the incident (the finger movement, the bullet leaving the barrel, striking the rioter, causing the fatal injury), but not others (deterring the mob, saving the lynch victim), then it is indeed judged wrong.

And the selection of some consequences and the rejection of others is arbitrary. Short of considering everything, there is no logical way to identify a particular level of analysis which is in some sense truer than the others and which will therefore give a truer answer to the moral questions. Those who would like the sheriff condemned will select one set of circumstances, those who want him praised, another set.

It is in fact arbitrary even to stop at the point where the mob disperses. If we knew more of the *facts, we might find the sheriff had* started a civil war. Or stopped lynchings for ever.

All this is enough to give casuistry a bad name — at least among those who have already made up their minds for or against the sheriff — and indeed this example was devised by a Jesuit. But the discussion is not about the absolute validity of "Thou shalt not kill", more about the difficulty of finding something to apply it to. The Jesuit surely has a point. In his case, the point was that nuclear deterrence need not necessarily be rejected as immoral because it involves a conditional intention to kill millions of the enemy's civilians, on the principle that it is wrong to intend to do what it is wrong in reality to do.

That is to select only some of the possible consequences. The overall intention of nuclear deterrence and the overall consequence, leaving nothing out, was the preservation of world peace. And because that is the highest order of meaning at which the matter can be considered, it is the only point at which an absolute moral judgment can be made.

Back in the Gulf, the sheriff has drawn his gun. Some who have supported him thus far want him to go no further. They have willed the bullet into the barrel, but only to frighten the mob. What distinguishes this point, however, is not a change in the moral character of the event because of the transition *from intention to action, for the overall intended consequence re*mains the same — the dispersal of the mob and the prevention of the lynching — but the prospect of a *sudden quantum leap in the scale* and uncertainty of the intermediate consequences. Consequences in a series of small steps are predictable, but a large step is a discontinuity in the series, when it seems anything may happen. The sheriff is about to unloose a bullet, or a war, or even his own lynching. How can he know for certain that his next action will lead to the final result he intends, even if it seems a reasonable expectation?

There can be no answer to this pressing practical question, only doubt and anxiety, faith and hope. The great temptation is to turn it into a moral question, in the hope the answer might lie that way, and doubt and anxiety thereby be relieved. But that is to draw the moral frame narrowly, defining the event by only some of its circumstances.

The step from drawing the gun to pulling the trigger, cataclysmic though it may be in immediate effect, should not shift the moral interpretation. Within the wider frame, the issues have not changed. Having drawn his gun, the sheriff must surely squeeze the trigger if the lynch mob is to be stopped.

...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

"NUMBER 17. Best!" was the message (in Spanish) on the placard by the side of the road from Quito to Riobamba. A few miles further, this message had been summarised in red paint on a kerbside rock. "17" said the rock.

"Support 12!" urged posters in the next village. "Number 10 — the people's choice!" was the answering graffito. Nearby, someone had tried to scrawl "9" repeatedly on the side of a building: but each 9 had been deleted, and overwritten "10". It seemed that Ecuador was gripped by numerical civil war.

Our guide explained. This was party political advertising from the most recent election.

"Who won?"

"12."

"Don't your parties have names?"

"Yes, but nobody can remember them. There are 17 parties. Anyway it's for the benefit of the Indians. They can't really understand everything about politics. So we have numbered our political parties in chronological order. The oldest was number 1, and, with the creation of new parties, we have reached 17. If a party dies, its number is reallocated to a new one."

I looked unconvinced. "It's easier for the Indians," she explained. "Take 9, for instance. That is the orthodox Communist party — the Frente Amplio de la Izquierda: Marxist/Leninist, I think. But who can remember all that? The Indians certainly can't. I can't always remember it myself. So supporters of the party just tell the Indians to vote for 9, to make their lives much better. Opponents, of course, tell the Indians that 9 will make their lives much worse."

"Aren't voters confused?"

"Yes, very. But voting is compulsory. They have to choose or they will be fined. This helps them make a decision. Oh look! There's a 4. You don't see many; 4 must have been active here."

Another hoarding flashed by: "Up with 10! down with 17!"

"In fact, 12 won this time. 17 are a socialist party so there is a lot of noise, but not much support. Then there is number 10. This is the poor people's party so a great many people vote for it, of course. It never seems to get anywhere, though."

She seemed perplexed that we should find the system odd. "Do English people really remember the titles of all the parties?" Well, do we? I fell to considering whether the Ecuadorian approach could be adopted in Britain. Think of the saving in newsprint.

The Whigs would have been 1, the Tories 2. After them, a series of shorter-lived movements would have shunted the nascent Labour party to at least 7. The Liberals might have collected the 1 number plate from the Whigs, but we would have challenged their right to transfer the cherished number to the Alliance, though Dr Owen would have fought hard to campaign under "El Numero Uno". The rebel Owen would then have stalked off at about 24, Lord Sutch sneaking in with a new joke-party to snatch the temporarily vacant 1 slot, while the Lib Dems (stuck with 25 — which is more than they have MPs) taunted Dr Owen with "Come in, number 24, your time is up."

But why stop there? Politicians could be abbreviated to single letters. K would have faced the dreaded T until she was knifed by H and supplanted by M. Mrs Thatcher's slogan in the leadership campaign would have been "T for 2".

And how about policies? Surely Roman numerals would save us spelling out the hackneyed phrase every time? "Sale of council houses" (i) came first. "Privatisation of nationalised industries" (ii) came next, while "tax cuts for the rich" (xiv) came later. Did the Romans have an xxxx? It would do nicely for the poll tax.

● *From our Political Correspondent:* At a press conference yesterday, K slammed what he called "the grisly legacy of T" but hinted at a more conciliatory attitude to ii & xiv. "In 1979," he declared, "they said that 7 wasn't working. M has yet to show that 2 can do better. No wonder M has pitched H into the xxxx . . ."

Why it will be a tough Budget

Alan Budd believes the recession and constraints imposed by ERM membership provide little room for manoeuvre

Among the lesser known features of the London calendar is the tradition of Treasury purdah, during which the Chancellor of the Exchequer and his ministers and officials retreat from public gaze (or at least from public hearing) while the details of the Budget are settled. It now starts with a weekend in the country — today and tomorrow — during which serious discussions are said to be interspersed with moments of fun and frivolity.

At this stage the Treasury will have produced its economic forecasts for the coming years and will have studied, with varying degrees of attention, the many independent forecasts. Almost without exception, the outside forecasts have become increasingly pessimistic, and it is likely that the same will be true of the Treasury. If so, officials may be expecting that the economy will sink more deeply into recession in the first half of this year and will recover only modestly in the second half.

In addition to the domestic uncertainties, there is the risk of war in the Gulf with its incalculable consequences, not to mention the problems of the American banking system and the threatened economic and political collapse of parts of eastern Europe.

Against such uncertainties, the Treasury can hardly expect to do more than consider the broad approach to the Budget and ask which ideas for changes in the tax system are worth taking further. What should the broad approach be? One way of answering the question is to start with the 1990 Budget and to recall what Mr Major laid down in his medium-term financial strategy. Last year the figures for 1991-2 implied a public sector debt repayment (that is, a surplus) of £3 billion, with a move to a balanced budget in 1992-3. If we still believe in the medium-term financial strategy, that should be the starting point of the discussions.

Current forecasts suggest that the public sector borrowing requirement for this financial year will be close to zero, compared with the Budget forecast of a surplus of £7 billion. Most of that error is due to higher than expected public spending. The government has already revised its spending plans for 1991-2 upwards by £8 billion. To some extent this will automatically be offset by higher tax revenues (since inflation is higher than expected), but it looks as if the medium-term strategy figure would require significant tax increases.

So the government's own approach suggests a tough Budget. But there have been two important changes in the past year. First, the economy is in a recession deeper and longer than was expected a year ago. Second, Britain is now a member of the exchange-rate mechanism. Should these changes affect the Budget judgment?

In its Budget Report last year, the government said that frequent large changes to the instruments of fiscal policy "are harmful to supply performance and potentially destabilising", so that seems to rule out the deliberate use of tax cuts or increases in public spending to boost demand and so counter recession.

As for ERM membership, this seems to present the government with a dilemma. As well as ruling out the use of fiscal policy for short-term adjustment, the Budget statement said that monetary policy could "be used more flexibly to make short-term adjustments to the policy stance". But now that we are in the ERM, monetary policy has to be dedicated to maintaining the exchange rate within its limits.

So we head for a deep recession, unable to relax monetary policy (because of the ERM) and unwilling to relax fiscal policy (because the government believes it should impose a medium-term objective of a balanced budget). It is enough to spoil anyone's weekend.

There is a tempting but mistaken argument that runs as follows. ERM membership, and the accompanying high interest rates which are necessary to maintain the value of the pound, are causing a severe recession. It is therefore sensible to have a generous Budget to counter these harsh effects. The Chancellor should therefore cut taxes and increase public spending.

That argument fatally fails to recognise why we are in the ERM and why membership is proving painful. We are in the ERM because of the hope that it will provide a counter-inflationary policy more credible than our own, unaided attempts.

We have, in effect, sacrificed our choice of both the destination in terms of inflation and of how rapidly we reach it. The only question is the cost in terms of lost output and temporarily higher unemployment. Membership is proving painful because there are questions about our commitment. As the markets become convinced that we intend to maintain the value of the pound, it will not be necessary to keep interest rates so high, and the recovery of economic growth can start.

That suggests that ERM membership, far from providing a justification for a generous Budget, provides a strong argument for a tough one, as evidence of the government's determination to bring inflation down.

How tough should it be? The Chancellor can reasonably wait for more news about the economy, but at this stage it is difficult to believe that he will have any scope for generosity at all. At the most, one might expect him to raise tax allowances in line with inflation. That need not prevent him from making adjustments to help the lower paid or to relieve the hard-pressed business sector, but any such help must be paid for elsewhere.

The author is economic adviser to Barclays Bank plc.

Golden treasury neglected

Brian Alderson thinks children should be encouraged to go far beyond the latest list of recommended reading

Over the last 100 years or more there have been regular outbreaks of despair about the standard of children's reading. The present fuss differs only in the coincidence within the space of a few days of four quite separate manifestations of criticism and concern.

On January 4, *The Times* reported the fears of the Council for University English that students would emerge from their education under the National Curriculum "lacking the skills ... to read English at university".

On January 10 some confirmation could be found for that view in the report by Her Majesty's Inspectors that the standard of reading was low in 20 per cent of the nation's schools (and "high" in only 30 per cent). In between those dates, *The Times* also carried an account of the education department's plans for testing the reading of seven-year-olds, and a letter from the chief executive of the Library Association suggesting that the decline in school library services represents a "short-sighted lack of investment in our children's future".

What lies at the heart of these four examples is the genuine conviction, much to be welcomed, that the reading of books is a good thing. What they lack is the recognition of a central contradiction: that children's literature is at once an extraordinarily diverse and an extraordinarily neglected field of activity.

The late Roald Dahl, demonstrating that his work can be enjoyed by the average seven-year-old

There are at least 20,000 children's books in print at any one time, and the pool is topped up by at least 5,000 new books and new editions every year. These 20,000 titles are not, however, a homogeneous body of material to be enjoyed by all children all at once. They range from simple productions such as board-books with no words in them to self-conscious explorations of teenage *angst*, and they include such categories of writing as nursery verse and traditional tales, animal stories and fantasies — genres which have evolved over a long period.

The mixture is rich and complex and offers scope for a close matching of the abilities, interests and temperaments of individual children with books that will inspire them with an enthusiasm to read more.

Unfortunately, an awareness of the potential of all this material is acquired only by the most haphazard methods, if it is acquired at all. As texts to be studied, compared, criticised or enthused over, children's books still exist in primeval darkness — and indeed, there are schools of thought which hold that any minute examination of books for children is comparable to breaking butterflies on wheels, or that they are beneath the dignity of serious literary scholarship.

So far as I know, there is only one university English department (at Cardiff) which includes an option on children's literature; and from many discussions with teachers and children's librarians I discern that there is no mandatory provision for children's literature to be studied in any detail in courses of professional training. Whether these workers-with-children are given a good grounding in the books available for their charges is a hit-or-miss matter, and part of the trouble over the "real book" teaching-method arises from a widespread lack of knowledge about what the "real books" are.

Under these circumstances it would be nice to know more about the criteria by which the DES "recommended list" of books for the reading test was compiled — and perhaps to know who was responsible for compiling it as well. Julia Eccleshare, editor of *Chilren's Books of the Year*, may be right to welcome the emphasis it places on contemporary authors, but this does not account for its almost perverse lack of attention to children's enjoyment of language. This failure to attend to one of the pleasures of reading is clear both in some of the undistinguished texts which were chosen (presumably because they have pretty illustrations) and in the omission of so much energetic poetry and traditional folk literature, which should surely be a *sine qua non* of the reading of the under-sevens.

An argument could, of course, be advanced that poetry and folk literature will only benefit from being omitted, since any list drawn up for testing will automatically engender rebellion among those tested — by which token the omission of such zingy writers as Russell Hoban and Roald Dahl is perhaps also a good thing. (Mr Dahl never got on too well with the educationists, who were unable to reconcile the unalloyed vigour of his writing with what they saw as a horridly subversive view of their profession.)

There is, of course, also the possibility that much of the work of Dahl and other modern writers has been omitted because it is thought too difficult for the seven-year-olds who are to be tested. For the other surprising thing about the DES lists is the very modest demands they make on children's capacity to absorb the printed word when divorced from pictures. It is not so long ago that seven-year-olds were reading Tove Jansson and C.S. Lewis.

This is where the approved list impinges upon the statement of the Council for University English, since one may easily perceive that a seven-year-old who cannot get beyond, say, Jane Hissey's *Old Bear* still has a long reading-road to travel in the few remaining years of childhood. It may well be that the failure to find longer and more stimulating texts for the child at this stage will have a knock-on effect into the period of secondary education.

The child who develops as a short-winded reader is a natural customer for the publishers of what the trade calls "teenage novels" — a category of fiction that was invented in America, under the influence of *The Catcher in the Rye*. Ostensibly "teenage novels" supply full-length stories designed to carry older children out of children's books and into books for adults; but in effect they form a comfortable continuation of earlier, simple satisfactions. Writers take on the *persona* of agitated youth which they then project in an undemanding demotic style, and readers are protected from too much in the way of subtle plotting or an extended vocabulary.

Our failure to exploit the riches of children's literature may lead to the coralling of adolescents into the dead end of "teenage fiction" that has for so long been a distraction from "real literature", from the clear path that leads from Quentin Blake to William Blake.

The author is children's book reviewer for The Times.

THE TIMES DIARY

How we shall go to war

Just how will America and its allies take the decision to attack Iraq? Although Downing Street remains understandably reluctant to discuss the mechanics of a declaration of war, President Bush is believed to have assured all the principal allies that they will be consulted, and John Major has been told that he is at the top of the president's list.

The consultation process is particularly sensitive as the allies are anxious to counter attempts by Saddam to portray the forces ranged alongside the Americans as little more than Bush's poodles.

The matter was almost certainly discussed when Bush and Major spoke on the telephone on Thursday. However, Edward Heath, speaking with the experience of a former prime minister, says: "I would not think President Bush has been given the authority yet to commit our forces to war. He will have to speak to Mr Major to get his permission for an attack at a given time."

Sir Michael Howard, the historian, says Bush will probably seek agreement for an attack within a specified period rather than at an exact moment. "Allied leaders will be told by Bush that the troops are ready to go into action. Once they have given their consent they will be allowed to sleep in their beds when the attack itself begins. They will not have to be disturbed."

Major, however, is almost certain to instruct Downing Street staff to wake him, regardless of the hour. He will have to inform the Queen and must decide whether to make a televised broadcast to the nation. Most commentators expect him to do so at the earliest opportunity, with Neil Kinnock offered equal air time. This would throw the spotlight immediately on the Labour disarray over military action.

When British forces attacked the Falklands, Mrs Thatcher reserved her statement for the pre-TV Commons. The last war-broadcast was therefore during the 1956 Suez operation, when to Eden's fury the Labour leader, Hugh Gaitskell, was given equal air time to distance the Opposition from the attack.

Downing Street is adamant that Major does not require the authority of Parliament before sending British troops into battle. "The authority to commit our forces in direct conflict is vested in the Crown," says a spokesman. "It is part of the royal prerogative, and that can be exercised only on the basis of advice from ministers. It does not need any legal preliminary approval from Parliament."

Revise, please

Wezi Kaunda, son of Zambian president Kenneth and himself a cabinet minister, has been told to do his African history homework again. As the culmination of five years' study for his master's degree in political science at York University, he has just submitted a 100,000-word thesis on modern technology and Southern African development.

But the university's Southern African studies department is not satisfied and has asked him to make revisions. "It is not at all unusual," says a university spokesman. "We have to ask lots of students to revise their theses. To be a cabinet minister and to be doing a doctorate at the same time is quite hard work."

Perhaps the Kaunda family should stick to making history instead of studying it.

Beyond recall?

Margaret Drabble is hoping that her latest literary assignment, a biography of the novelist Sir Angus Wilson, will not turn out to be more of a challenge than when she first presented him with the idea.

Wilson, author of some 50 books, including *Anglo-Saxon Attitudes*, *Hemlock and After* and *No Laughing Matter*, rebuffed Drabble's original offer to write the book 15 years ago. "Don't be silly, my dear," he said. "You've got much better things to do with your time than write about me."

Drabble now wishes she had been less easily put off, for Wilson, 77 — having finally agreed — is unwell in a Suffolk nursing home. She had been hoping to spend some time listening to him talk. "He is such a wonderful raconteur and mimic," she says. Instead, she had to make do with a Christmas trip to South Africa with her husband, Michael Holroyd, to research Wilson's childhood background.

Drabble says: "Wilson's novels were the first adult contemporary work that I read at university. He is one of the great 20th-century creative writers, now unfortunately neglected and due for revival."

All sewn up

Charlotte's Embroidery, a knitwear shop near Marble Arch, has cashed in on the Gulf crisis by selling personally embroidered sweatshirts with the words "Free Kuwait" above the Kuwaiti flag. Among its best customers have been members of the Al Sabah clan, Kuwait's royal family, a number of whom are now in exile in London.

On Thursday five young Englishmen walked into the shop requesting a similar shirt, but embroidered with the words "Gulf Crisis 1991". When asked the reason, they said they were trainee doctors flying out to join the British forces this weekend. By chance a member of the Al Sabah family was in the shop at the same time. He immediately produced his wallet, peeled off £350 and bought ten shirts, two for each doctor. "The girls in the embroidery room agreed to work overtime and we had the shirts ready that evening," says a spokesman for the shop.

Misallocation

No-one seems to have told the Scottish Office civil servants handling the privatisation of Scotland's two electricity generating companies, Scottish Hydro and Scottish Power, about their department's campaign for economic growth north of the border.

Ignoring its own strictures to the private sector to place more business locally, the Scottish Office has awarded the lucrative contract to handle registrations by telephone for shares in the first all-Scottish privatisation to a firm 300 miles away, in Bristol.

Sir Nicholas Fairbairn, a former Scottish Office minister, says: "I shall be taking this up with the Secretary of State. It could have created 200 much-needed new jobs in Scotland." He might also remind the Scottish Office of the slogan it is currently using in its drive to boost the Scottish economy: "Locate in Scotland".

● *Chelsea chairman Ken Bates, fined £105,000 by the Football League yesterday over illegal payments to a player, appears to have taken John Major a little too literally. Shortly after he became Chancellor in October 1989, Major, a Stamford Bridge regular, visited the Chelsea dressing-room as the guest of manager Bobby Campbell. "Listen fellows, any win bonus today will be tax free," he jokingly told his favourite team. He was joking, wasn't he?*

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الإهمل

LABOUR SHRINKS FROM WAR

Neil Kinnock must choose between conflicting loyalties this weekend, as he prepares his speech for Tuesday's debate on the Gulf. Today's Mori poll in *The Times* reveals that three quarters of the British public believes that force should be used to expel Iraq from Kuwait as soon as the UN deadline expires on January 15. Support for military action has increased since November. With two thirds approving of the government's handling of Gulf policy, electoral advantage would point to a strong reaffirmation of bipartisan solidarity.

Labour's support for the government's position on the Gulf was always likely to be tested to breaking point once hostilities were imminent. After the breakdown of the Geneva talks on Wednesday, that is what is now happening.

This should not be treated as a setback to the national interest. A degree of political debate is right and proper before any democratic nation goes to war. If America has agonised too much, Britain has arguably agonised too little. A decision made after due debate will be more likely to survive the crucible of war.

Neil Kinnock's loyal promise that once British forces are committed, Labour will back them, hints of circle-squaring. Given the internal tensions in the party, Mr Kinnock will have his work cut out to deliver. His party foes will be quoting back at him the other things he has been saying, for instance that the use of force would have Labour support only once it has been "proved" that other means were failing to dislodge Iraq.

There is an escape route from these Kinnockian contradictions, however. Once war starts he could reasonably argue that a tactical disagreement with the government over the method of achieving common objectives had become something for historians to argue about. It provides insufficient grounds for opposing the whole enterprise. And he would then also find it useful to exploit the weakness of his own position, which is essentially the impossibility of ever "proving" that sanctions and diplomatic pressure are failing.

Some sincerely believe that sanctions will work. More often they provide a fig-leaf for those, often on the Left, who would prefer Iraq to win rather than wage war. Sanctions, for them, are a symbol of world disapproval — but they are ultimately prepared to accept its powerlessness too. Mr Kinnock need do little more than refer them to the closing years of the League of Nations to demonstrate how reliance on sanctions alone eventually leads to far greater horrors.

There is a more fundamental miscalculation behind Labour's stress on sanctions, however. Blockade and siege tactics wear an enemy down only very slowly. Belts grow tighter and tyrannical leaders turn into popular heroes whose cruelty is legitimised by emergency. Civilian morale lifts as a sense of unity grows in step with hatred of the common enemy. Improvisation makes good shortages if possible, whether by domestic invention or by blockade running.

The sort of complete collapse which brings ultimate reward for the besieger only occurs on the far side of prolonged and horrendous suffering if it happens at all. If that is what Labour prefers it should say so. Leningrad, invested for 900 days, never surrendered even after the death of up to half the population. With the possible exception of Germany in 1918 — and even then only after starvation had begun among civilians, after massive defeat on the battlefield, and after the feeding of the much of the male population to the guns over four years — the evidence of history is that sanctions, blockade and siege are rarely effective, and never work painlessly or quickly.

The most that might plausibly be expected from sanctions against Iraq, on any time-scale measured in months rather than several years, is a shortage of military matériel among the Iraqi forces. The weight to be given to that, against other factors, can be left to the military experts on the spot. And the dividend can only be collected in the coming battle to which the advocates of sanctions alone are fundamentally opposed.

Labour's search for easier answers than war is understandable. It represents a necessary stage in the evolution of the national mood before the logic of the Gulf confrontation reasserts itself. Ultimately, however, Labour will find that it is indeed boxed in to the use of force — and sooner rather than later. The only other realistic policy is appeasement, which Labour has eschewed from the beginning.

THE KREMLIN'S DEAF EAR

Mikhail Gorbachev was said to be out to lunch yesterday when the Lithuanian President, Vytautas Landsbergis, telephoned him to protest against an assault by the Soviet army on the defence department, press centre and international telephone exchange in Vilnius. Mr Gorbachev's decision to turn a deaf ear to elected leaders further damages a reputation on the wain.

This week's intimidation, which looks like the prelude to a putsch, has already resulted in the piteous sight — which the West hoped never again to witness — of civilians pleading with Soviet soldiers not to crush their liberty. This reassertion of Moscow's sovereignty is wrong in principle and inept in practice. The protests from the West, including that of the European Community and of the foreign secretary, Douglas Hurd, are richly merited.

Until now, Mr Gorbachev could pride himself on having removed the stains left by the invasions of Hungary and Czechoslovakia from the Soviet escutcheon. Sadly, the Soviet president appears set upon tarnishing that record, perhaps feeling safe in the knowledge that the impending war in the Gulf will preoccupy the West in the coming weeks and months. Just as the Suez war provided a convenient diversion during the suppression of the Hungarian uprising in 1956, so the Soviet leadership now seems determined to seize its chance to deal with Baltic nationalism. Last year the Kremlin tried a blockade; troops are a last resort.

For Mr Gorbachev to have followed the violent precedent on which he was supposed to have turned his back forever invites two speculations. First, perhaps he now cares less about wooing the West. His own survival ranks higher, and depends less on what the West thinks than on Soviet hardliners. Second, perhaps he is now indifferent to public opinion.

In that light yesterday's papal message to the predominantly Roman Catholic Lithuanians struck the right note. While expressing the Vatican's solidarity with their cause, John Paul II advised "tenacious patience". The Polish Pope has not forgotten the trials of his own people in 1956, in 1970, and in 1981. The Baltic states will not regain the freedom they lost in 1940 without a hard struggle. Like Poland in the 1980s, they will need moral support from the West. Unlike the Poles, they have elected nationalist governments. They face an imperial power which does not recognize their sovereignty and which they do not trust.

Old hatreds boil beneath the surface. Lithuanians, Latvians and Estonians bitterly resent the ruin of their countries under Soviet rule. The collaboration of many Balts with the Germans during the war, though understandable in view of Stalin's butchery of their compatriots, has never been forgotten. The Russian minorities, which are especially large in Latvia and Estonia, are not in real or imminent danger. Relations between ethnic groups are not as poor as Soviet propaganda may suggest. But the under-representation of Russians in all three nationalist governments has not helped to ease tension. Troops from other Soviet republics are unlikely to appreciate the niceties of Baltic society.

Mr Gorbachev, alas, is right to think that the Gulf will colour the West's response. Moscow's benevolent neutrality is vital to maintain the coalition against Iraq. No matter what Moscow does in the Baltic states, the West's hands are tied for the moment, and its protests will remain verbal. But there should be no question of economic aid for Moscow until the troops now throwing their weight about in the republics return to barracks. It might help if Mr Gorbachev could bring himself to invite Mr Landsbergis to one of his lunches.

PIGS IN THE MIDDLE

The absence of wings is a design fault in the modern pig, though about the only one. If ever dogs had to stand aside as man's best friend, the family *suidae* could take over. The pig's real problem is that man, being a real swine, has not recognised his porcine benefactor for the splendid thing it is. Piggism — irrational prejudice against the creature — is rife.

Does George Orwell want a greedy animal as his ultimate farmyard bully? Does Graham Greene need a silly domestic creature to fall from a balcony? Do militants want to abuse the police; or women, men? The friendless pig will do. If pigs could sue . . .

Pigs in the natural state are friendly and intelligent creatures, all-consuming and all-consumable — and clean. Pigs and hens are to an English farmyard as bacon and eggs are to an English breakfast. But no pig ever got fat on man's gratitude for services rendered, only on the consumer appetite for lean and succulent pork with plenty of crackling.

How many votes are there in cruelty to pigs? John Gummer, not a man to be careless with his party's popularity, has just brought forward some half-hearted proposals to ease their lot. The Minister of Agriculture has portentiously declared it is "now time to take action", meaning, of course, a new deal for pigs in 1999. He was in fact merely trying to out-manoeuvre a backbencher's pro-pig private members' bill. Sir Richard Body wants parliament to legislate away pig-tethering and narrow stalls in five years' time. Mr Gummer's rival bid was eight years, so the auction seems to be going backwards (from a pigs-eye view).

When eight years of continuing "dreadful" treatment, to use Sir Richard's adjective, is deemed a superior offer to five, pigs have an image problem. The National Farmers' Union has bottomed them both with a bid of ten years, and demanded equality of suffering for foreign pigs.

The husbandry practices in question — confining a pig between horizontal bars or by neck-chain to the floor — were described by Mr Gummer as an "undesirable welfare burden". This vivid euphemism for cruelty surely would make him "pig of the year" were it not time to stop insulting pigs. May we commend the expression "male chauvinist gummer" in retaliation?

Notwithstanding the efforts of Sir Richard, Mr Gummer and the NFU, the time for civil treatment of these civilised animals has come. Parliament should amend the pig husbandry bill's time-scale downwards, and send the new gummer regulations under the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act to the slaughterhouse.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

'Shoot to kill' policy denied

From Major-General A. S. Jeapes (retd)

Sir, I was the commander of the land forces in Northern Ireland for the three years 1985 to 1987. If there were a "shoot to kill" policy operated by the security forces in Northern Ireland, as Kenneth Loach, in his film *Hidden Agenda*, appears to want viewers to believe (leading article, January 10), I should have had to know about it and endorse it, for it could not have been promoted without my orders.

The RUC would have had to know about it because they would have had to be restrained from charging our soldiers with murder when they investigated, as they do, every death caused by the security forces.

The Director of Public Prosecutions, who is not a member of the security forces but an independent lawyer, would also have had to know about it because he would have been required to turn a blind eye to these same acts of murder. The same applies to the Lord Chief Justice, presumably.

Can anyone in his right mind seriously believe that for 20 years all these people in authority have been conniving at one of the most serious crimes in British law? Alternatively, can anyone seriously believe that I or any commander could order a soldier to break the law and leave himself open to a charge of murder? Would soldiers obey such an illegal order?

It is high time this "shoot to kill" nonsense is dispelled once and for all. There could not be such a policy, and a modicum of clear thought shows why there could not. Writers and film producers like Mr Loach who mix fact with fiction to produce a "story" do those who are trying to protect them and us against terrorism no service at all.

Yours faithfully,
A. S. JEAPES,
Warminster, Wiltshire.
January 10.

Saddam's ambitions

From Mr Aubrey Jones

Sir, Although I have no recent knowledge of Iraq, I had occasion, some ten years ago when studying the policies of oil-producing countries, to read the writings and sayings of President Saddam Hussein. Here are some extracts:

> We don't look on this piece of land, here in Iraq, as the ultimate limit of our struggle. It is part of a larger area and broader aims, the area of the Arab homeland and the aims of the Arab struggle . . .
>
> Whoever enjoys effective influence in the Middle East will be able to influence Europe and Japan . . . when the sources of oil become independent [presumably independent of the oil companies], Japan will be able to deal with the Arabs directly.

Partly in the light of these quotations I myself then concluded, (in *Oil: The Missed Opportunity* in 1981) that in nationalising the oil industry the Iraqi government appears to have seen it as a step towards Arabism and the effective defence of the Arab homeland. The land of Babylon is not without ambitions.

It is these ambitions which the United Nations coalition now has to bear in mind.

Yours faithfully,
AUBREY JONES,
120 Limmer Lane, Felpham,
Bognor Regis, West Sussex.

Soviet newspapers

From Mr Alexei Burmistenko

Sir, Information by your Moscow correspondent, Mary Dejevsky (report, January 1), that "a Soviet newspaper employs between five and ten times more staff than a British paper", is wrong. My daily newspaper *Trud* (circulation, 18.2 million) employs 305 people. That figure includes secretaries, typists, messengers, cleaners, guards etc.

If technical and support people are excluded, our journalistic staff is approximately 170 (22 foreign correspondents, 48 correspondents in regions within the country, and the rest writers and editors in various departments). Such a structure is more or less typical for any major Soviet newspaper.

Soviet newspapers are now experiencing economic difficulties not because of overmanning or high wage bills (which are only a tiny fraction of my newspaper's income of 251 million roubles for 1991 from subscriptions alone). The real reason is the quite arbitrary and absolutely unjustified five-fold and even six-fold rise in the price of newsprint and similar increases for printing and postal delivery charges.

Yours faithfully,
ALEXEI BURMISTENKO
(London correspondent, *Trud*),
5 Ordnance Hill, NW8.
January 2.

Mozart's funeral

From Mr Cecil Gould

Sir, Though ancient fallacies are almost impossible to kill, one can at least try. This one concerns Mozart's funeral, which is stated ad nauseam to have been that of a pauper, despite conclusive documentation to the contrary. In fact the funeral was a cheap one, but it was a paid one.

Yours,
CECIL GOULD,
Jubilee House, Thorncombe,
Nr Chard, Somerset.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

Costs penalty in planning appeals

From Mr D. Keene, QC, and others

Sir, The Planning and Compensation Bill presently before parliament contains many welcome changes to land use planning and to compensation for the compulsory acquisition of land. The provisions in clause 24 of the bill, however, give cause for considerable concern.

The clause, if enacted, would enable the secretary of state to order the costs of an appeal to be awarded against an appellant who insists "unreasonably" on being heard at a public local inquiry or hearing in preference to the alternative procedure known as written representation.

The proposed clause directly contradicts the policy previously expressed in paragraph 24 of Department of the Environment circular no 2/87, which states

> Costs will not be awarded simply because one of the parties to an appeal has asked for an oral hearing . . . The exercise of that right will not be regarded as unreasonable conduct, even if the appeal could have been adequately dealt with by written representation.

For many years the law has given an appellant and a local planning authority a right to an oral hearing conducted before an inspector appointed by the secretary of state before the appeal is determined. A similar right to an oral hearing is given in other cases where legislation gives a party a right of appeal to the secretary of state.

We are concerned that the existence of the power now sought and the communication of its existence to the parties to an appeal will frequently deter a party from exercising his statutory right to an oral hearing, particularly where the appellant is a person with small means.

The concept of an oral hearing is of long standing. It is predicated on the belief in a system of justice that a person making an appeal should have "a fair crack of the whip". If people find they can best put their case more effectively at an oral hearing, they should not be deterred from exercising that opportunity.

We hope that if questions of cost-effectiveness have led to the making of this proposal they will not be allowed to outweigh the greater public interest in the maintenance of the highest standards of good administration for all, and that the government will agree to delete clause 24 from the bill.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID KEENE (Vice-Chairman,
Local Government and Planning,
Bar Association),
C. S. HEAPS (Chairman, Law
Society Planning Committee),
VICTOR MOORE (Chairman,
Administrative Law Committee),
Justice,
95a Chancery Lane, WC2.
January 9.

Merits of protection for adders

From Sir William Wilkinson and Lord Cranbrook

Sir, Your leading article, "No goodness in the worm" (January 4), about the adder becoming a protected species, criticised what you regard as "greenery run out of control". We think, however, that it could arouse unnecessary fears, as well as doing damage to the wider issue of species preservation.

Adders (*Vipera berus*) are not a major threat to human life. The general population is far more at risk from dogs, or indeed bees. Deaths resulting from bee or wasp stings are about 50 times as frequent as from adder bites. Over the last 100 years there have been fewer than a dozen fatalities resulting from adder bites.

The main adder population occurs in south-west and north-east England, Wales and southern Scotland. The population is in decline both through habitat loss and as a result of persecution. Grass snakes, slow worms and the smooth snake are being killed through ignorance, being mistaken for adders.

The Nature Conservancy Council has a statutory duty to recommend species that are endangered for inclusion on the species protection list, which makes it illegal to kill or injure them. Before making these recommendations, NCC takes into account our international obligations (e.g., under the Berne Convention) and does the necessary scientific research.

Species preservation is needed if the balance of nature is to be preserved and if bio-diversity is to be maintained at a time when the world is faced with unprecedented losses.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM WILKINSON
(Chairman),
CRANBROOK (Chairman,
England Committee),
Nature Conservancy Council,
Northminster House,
Peterborough, Cambridgeshire.
January 8.

From Mrs Lorraine Knowles

Sir, My husband and I do our utmost to be green. But when it comes to adders writhing over the doorstep, lawn, in the field, vineyard and across the forest paths, we draw the line.

This locality abounds in the sinuous reptiles. From late February until October dogs' walks must be curtailed, we fear for our grandchildren and long for the winter respite. We would happily save up for the £2,000 fine in lieu of our lives and those of our loved grandchildren and dogs.

Preserve adders? Yes, if you like — but in vinegar.

Yours faithfully,
LORRAINE KNOWLES,
Sheep Pen Cottage, Friston Forest,
Westdean, nr Seaford, East Sussex.
January 7.

From Mr Brian Banks

Sir, Reptiles and amphibians have suffered centuries of prejudice, largely due to ignorance of their value. But while I accept that many people have phobias about snakes it is incorrect to assume that most people would prefer adders to be extinct in Britain.

There is an increasing concern for the protection of reptiles, as indicated by the numbers of people who are joining our society and donating money to help conserve these threatened animals.

The adder is an attractive snake, the finding of which adds to the excitement and interest of a walk in the countryside. It plays a valuable ecological role both as predator of mice and other small mammals, and as prey for other species such as hedgehogs and buzzards.

Mr David Trippier, Minister for Environment and Countryside (report, January 4), should be congratulated for having the courage to bestow further legal protection on the adder.

Yours etc.,
BRIAN BANKS (Member,
conservation committee),
British Herpetological Society),
The Zoological Society of London,
Regent's Park, NW1.
January 8.

From Mr J. A. Cunningham

Sir, When will all this nonsense stop? First bats are protected and now adders. How much longer will I be allowed to use rat poison? Will wasps become a protected species? Are large areas of Africa going to be reserved for the tsetse fly? Will it become illegal for me as a veterinary surgeon to inject penicillin lest some streptococci are harmed?

I feel this whole sentimental attitude to other species has gone on too long and has been the downfall of the human race. If Eve had done the sensible thing and killed that serpent straightaway and thrown its body over the garden wall, she would have been in contravention of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, but life would have been a lot happier for us all.

Yours etc.,
JIM CUNNINGHAM,
Dorcas Farm, Stoke Hammond,
Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire.
January 5.

From Mrs June Blane

Sir,

So, adders now are sacrosanct,
To them we must be kind.
Two thousand pounds for killing
one
Is what "they" have in mind.
An unknown factor still remains
That ought to be defined:
Should adders go on killing us,
Would they in turn be fined?

Yours faithfully,
JUNE BLANE,
Mark Cross House,
Ripe, Lewes, East Sussex.
January 5.

Random testing

From Mrs Jeanne Breen

Sir, Surveys of public opinion for the past three years have demonstrated consistent and high levels of support for random breath testing and, contrary to the fears expressed in your leader (January 3), overseas experience shows that public support for random breath testing when implemented is also high.

In New South Wales the policy has not only led to a 35 per cent reduction in alcohol-related deaths but also in police reports of improved relations with the motoring public.

In terms of life-saving potential, we believe that the debate on highly-visible random breath testing is the most important debate in the Road Traffic Bill. It is to be hoped that government will now respond positively to the opportunities offered at committee stage with the support of all parties and a broad range of organisations.

Yours faithfully,
JEANNE BREEN (Co-ordinator),
Parliamentary Advisory Council for
Transport Safety,
c/o Department of Civil Engineering,
Imperial College, SW7.

From Mr George Thomas

Sir, Despite a 40 per cent fall in drink-drive accidents between 1979 and 1988 and this season's lowest-ever positive breath tests over Christmas (reports, January 3) the police still want "unfettered power to test drivers".

You report on the same day that an actor (Dennis Waterman) was convicted of "drink-driving" after the police, at 11.45 at night, "carried out a document check", "smelt alcoholic drink" and carried out a test. Were the police really just checking documents at such a time and what evidence is the smell of alcohol of excessive intake?

To combat one evil by reducing civil rights is always dangerous. It is fundamental that a free citizen should be able to travel unmolested by the authorities. Are we so complacent about freedom that we will carelessly grant police the authority to cut corners? Sadly there is no reason to believe that the police are incapable of excessive zeal or always punctilious about citizens' rights. Random testing is an abuse of freedom.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE THOMAS,
17 Campden Hill Square, W8.

Post-Modernism: trick or treat?

From Mr Charles Jencks

Sir, Modernists have been declaring dead a movement they don't understand for ten years, but in spite of annual obituaries, such as Bryan Appleyard's "When the laughter had to stop" (Saturday Review, January 5) Post-Modernism will thrive for at least another decade. What Appleyard misses, blinded as he is by whimsy and polychromy (why do Modernists only engage stylistic concerns?), are the urban, social and political issues.

Ever since the publication in 1961 of Jane Jacobs's *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* designers have brought back small block planning and the idea of diversity supporting a city of mixed ages and uses. In the 1960s "advocacy planners" were the first to introduce consultations with neighbourhoods as a precondition to design; in the 1970s international Post-Modernists were the first to devise methods of participation which took into account local tastes. Hence the hybrid approach which makes their work Post-Modern.

On one point Appleyard is right: Modernists did believe that "only in novelty could meaning be restored" — a novelty-shop approach which was, and is, absurd. Architectural meaning always exists in relationship, oppositions and revisions, which is why the pluralism Appleyard fears, and finds full of "cultural despair", is necessary to architecture, as it is to politics.

Yours sincerely,
CHARLES JENCKS,
19 Lansdowne Walk, W11.

From Mr Michael Rubinstein

Sir, Bryan Appleyard describes Venturi's National Gallery extension as

> a joke but a sober one that takes its cue from the facade of the old National Gallery and transforms the classical language subtly to close the corner of [Trafalgar Square] with just enough variation to preserve interest without jarring.

Any building on that particular site could have taken its cue, or, as here, several cues, from Wilkins's facade; and it would be bound to "close the corner" of the square. But Venturi has achieved all that was needed to condemn Post-Modernism as lacking subtlety and as calculated to jar with "just enough variation" to offend by its irrelevancy.

To apply several engaged columns, a pilaster and some colour atop small pillars by the doorways is like puffing powder on the jowls and rouge on the cheeks of a transvestite, ineffectively to disguise a sad travesty. And this paean to Post-Modernism is surmounted by a confusion of skylights, littering the roofline to illustrate precisely how Sir John Soane would not have laid them out. On such a site did London deserve a joke like a hole in its carbuncle?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL RUBINSTEIN,
2 Raymond Buildings,
Gray's Inn, WC1.
January 8.

From the Chairman of Henley Royal Regatta

Sir, By using Terry Farrell's Henley Regatta headquarters to illustrate his attack on Post-Modernist architecture, Bryan Appleyard presumably considers it to be "bad architecture" — whatever that may be; though his specific criticism is only that "the taste for frivolity remains".

The building fulfils its purpose superbly, as a working boathouse, as offices and in providing the regatta secretary's flat. Visually, it is most attractive. It also fills one of the most sensitive sites imaginable with great sensitivity.

I suspect most people would feel that "consistent" and "solid" with a "taste for frivolity" was a very good description of Henley Royal Regatta, and thus entirely appropriate for its headquarters. After five years' use, I remain a very happy client.

Yours etc.,
PETER CONI, Chairman,
Henley Royal Regatta,
Regatta Headquarters,
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.
January 6.

Parting shot

From Mrs Patricia Alford

Sir, The rule governing the complimentary endings of business letters is the thing I have found most difficult to fathom since coming to France and as a general rule have overcome the problem by copying that which was sent to me. I was glad, however, that the card giving me the registration number of my body for research purposes after my death and which ended, "Nous vous souhaitons une bonne réception", did not require a reply.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICIA ALFORD,
Le Moulin de Quatre Carres,
47150 Monflanquin,
Lot-et-Garonne, France.
January 2.

Foot faults

From Mr L. O. Mountford

Sir, The fascinating photograph of Japanese swimmers (January 5) had an astonishing feature. All the feet showed signs of *Hallus valgus* (bent big toe), a deformity common in our wealthy societies but unseen in those citizens of Africa or Asia who invariably go barefoot.

Yours faithfully,
LAURENCE MOUNTFORD,
19a King Street,
Emsworth, Hampshire.
January 8.

COURT CIRCULAR

KENSINGTON PALACE
January 11: The Princess of Wales, Patron, received Mrs M. Glen Haig, President of the British Sports Association for the Disabled, at Kensington Palace.

Today's royal engagement

Prince Edward, Patron of the Cambridge Symphony Orchestra, will attend the debut concert of the Chamber Orchestra, Eastern Sinfonia, in King's College Chapel at 7.30pm.

Memorial service

Major Gerald Gundry
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Major Gerald Ashton Gundry was held yesterday at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Tetbury, Gloucestershire. The Right Rev W.S. Llewellyn officiated. Mr Robin Gundry, son, read the lesson and the Duke of Beaufort gave an address.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev David Painter, Vicar, Holy Trinity, Roehampton, diocese of Southwark: to be Canon Residentiary of Southwark Cathedral and Joint Diocesan Director of Ordinands, same diocese.

The Rev Desmond Pearce, formerly a teacher and non-stipendiary minister Chellaston, diocese of Derby: to be Assistant Priest, St James the Great (Ocle Pychard) and Ullingswick, diocese of Hereford.

The Rev William R Pryce, until recent Hon Curate, St Barnabas and St Mary, diocese of Sheffield: to be Assistant Curate (NSM), St Mary, Alveley and St Andrew, Quatt, diocese of Hereford.

The Rev Trevor Thurston-Smith, Assistant Curate, Horninglow, diocese of Lichfield: to be Social Worker, Derbyshire County Council Social Services Department.

Birthdays this weekend

TODAY: Mr Anthony Andrews, actor, 43; Mr Ernest Armstrong, former MP, 76; Mr Michael Aspel, broadcaster, 58; Sir Charles Ball, company director, 67; Mr H.G.H. Barratt, trades unionist, 86; Lord Boardman, 72; Mr P.W. Botha, former South African president, 75; Sir James Bottomley, diplomat, 71; Air Vice-Marshal S.O. Bufton, 83; the Hon Sir Richard Butler, former president, National Farmers' Union, 62; Mr James Byam Shaw, art historian, 88; Mr Brendan Foster, athlete, 43; Mr Joe Frazier, boxer, 47; Mr Eric Heffer, MP, 69; Miss Anne Howells, concert and opera singer, 50; Lord Justice McCowan, 63; Mr Denys Milne, former managing director, BP Oil, 65; Mr James Mortimer, former general secretary, Labour Party, 70; Mr Des O'Connor, entertainer, 59; Sir John Rennie, former governor-general, Mauritius, 74; Sir Terence Streeton, diplomat, 61; Mr Justice Swinton Thomas, 60.

TOMORROW: Mr Craigie Aitchison, painter, 65; Air Marshal Sir John Baker-Carr, 85; Sir Johannes Bjelke-Petersen, former Premier of Queensland, 80; Mr Richard Blackford, composer, 37; Mr Michael Bond, author and creator of Paddington Bear, 65; Dr Sydney Brenner, CH, molecular biologist, 64; Sir John Caines, civil servant, 58; Lady Donaldson of Kingsbridge, author, 84; the Earl of Essex, 71; Mr Stephen Glover, editor, *The Independent on Sunday*, 39; Mr Stephen Hendry, snooker player, 22; Mr Olaf Lambert, former vice-president, AA, 66; Mr Ronan Rafferty, golfer, 27, Mr Bernard Shrimsley, journalist, 60; Mr K.C. Turpin, former vice-chancellor, Oxford University, 76; Lord Willis, 73.

Legal appointment

Mr Justice Nolan to be a Lord Justice of Appeal.

School news

Ardingly College
The Lent term at Ardingly College begins on Sunday, January 13. Adrian Noaro (Woodard) is head prefect.
Sixth form entrance awards for September 1991 have been made as follows:

First Scholarship: Hannah S. Johnson, Putney High School. Closed Scholarship for the Children of Old Ardinians: Victoria E.A. Hart, Ashford School. First Music Scholarship: Elizabeth A. Elliot:, The Towers, Steyning. Music Exhibition: Jeremy E. Newman, Ardingly College.

Music scholarships for juniors and 13+ entrants will take place on February 4 and 5. The junior school 11+ scholarships and government assisted places competition will take place on February 6. The competitions for art, drama, sports and Ashdown Awards for All-rounders will take place during the week commencing March 11. The headmaster will be attending the Bourse des Langues in Brussels from February 21-23 and will also be available to meet parents by appointment. A gala concert in aid of the Ardingly College football team's tour of South America will take place on Friday, January 25, and the Choral Society will give a performance of Bach's *Mass in B minor* on Sunday, March 17. The Dramatic Society will present *Tibetan Inroads* by Stephen Lowe from March 14-16. Term ends on Friday, March 22.

Caterham School
Term began on January 10. T.G.W. Bailey continues as senior prefect and T.G. Maynard is hockey captain. The Old Caterhamians celebrate their centenary year 1991. OC Day is Sunday, March 17, and includes a service at 11.45 am. Reunion Lunch (1940-1950 leavers please contact the school), afternoon Matches and Stainer's *"Crucifixion"* will be sung at 7.45 pm. Term ends on Friday, March 22.

Moreton Hall, Shropshire
The school will reassemble for the Spring term on Sunday, January 13. Lia Haywood and Jemma Pratt remain head and second prefect with Suzanne Mills as captain of lacrosse. The Council has confirmed the appointment of Mr Michael Maloney, MA, formerly Headmaster of Welbeck College and Kamuzu Academy, Malawi, as principal until at least July 1992. The entrance and scholarship examination will be held on January 22 and 24 and the sixth form scholarship examination will be on February 22. The Junior Drama Society will perform *Smike* on February 14 and [illegible] there will be a school production of *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* on March 21 and 22, both in the new Musgrave Arts Centre. Half-term will be from Saturday, February 16 to Wednesday, February 20 and term will end on Saturday, March 23.

St Margaret's School, Bushey, Hertfordshire
Spring term has begun for all pupils at St Margaret's. The school officers are: Head Girl, Tiffany Hardwick, Deputy Head Girl, Joanna Coghill and Games Captain, Katy Jason. The main events this term are the Entrance Examinations for Lower School and Senior School on Wednesday, January 23 and Friday, January 25, and February 4, 5 and 6 for entry to the Preparatory Department. The Chapel Choir joins Oundle School to sing *'Dream of Gerontius'* on Tuesday, March 12.

Candidates will be confirmed by the Bishop of Hertford on Saturday, March 16. Term ends on Friday, March 22, when the ski trip leaves for Serre Chevalier.

OBITUARIES

ROBERT DYK

Robert Dyk, geophysicist and pioneer of North Sea oil exploration, died on January 7 aged 81. He was born on January 5, 1910.

BOB Dyk, American born and trained, was a key figure in the formative years of North Sea oil exploration. His expertise gave him one of the earliest insights into the region's geological potential. He was also instrumental in setting up industry-wide organisations and taking part in the early negotiations with the British government on the regulation and taxation of the new activities.

Dyk was born in Gloversville, New York, the third son of an immigrant Czech glovemaker. His brothers had been born in Prussia, and the family struggled during their first years in the United States. In 1925, when Bob was 15, they moved to California. The eldest of the three brothers, Walter, became a professor of anthropology. Bob worked for a time on the assembly line of the Ford Motor Company but he was attracted by the example of the middle brother, Karl, who became a geophysicist. These were the years of the American oil boom, when entrepreneurs like Rockefeller were making fabulous fortunes.

Bob gained a degree in geology from the University of California. In 1936 he joined Western Geophysical, working on the West and Gulf coasts until 1947. There followed a succession of appointments as his experience broadened. Dyk moved to Mobil Oil as division geophysicist based in California. Four years later he went to manage the Midcontinent and Rocky Mountain division of Geophysical Services, Denver, Colorado. In 1957 he became chief geophysicist for the foreign division of Tidewater Oil, now renamed Getty Oil, in Los Angeles. That exposed him to geological conditions throughout large tracts of the globe.

In 1961, Dyk's standing was such that he decided to set up as an independent consultant. He started in Los Angeles and moved to Denver, home of several leading oil companies including Hamilton Brothers. But after two years he made what proved to be a fateful decision, to establish himself in Brussels.

Dyk was one of a growing number of oil experts drawn to Europe by the prospect that the North Sea might prove a significant source of oil. In 1963 extensive seismic surveys were being commissioned. He undertook a project which involved inspecting the North Sea from a converted frigate out of Middlesbrough. As he was about to set sail, Dyk received a telegram from Hamilton Brothers (UK), the Denver group's British subsidiary, asking him to travel in a seismic boat to check the quality of seismic work they were carrying out in the area. The following year Hamilton asked Dyk to take charge of their UK operation, which he did until he retired in 1980. Under Dyk's leadership, Hamilton applied for licenses to drill, in the then unfashionable northern sectors, where Shell-Esso had concentrated their efforts.

Hamilton found gas in 1969, and struck oil two years later in the Argyll Field 200 miles east of Edinburgh. Hamilton became one of the most successful of the independent oil companies in the North Sea. But Dyk was also conscious of the scarcity of North Sea geological information. He formed the Petroleum Exploration Society of Great Britain as a forum for geologists.

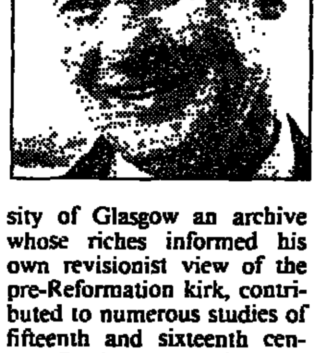
Dyk was a founder member of the UK Offshore Operators' Association, the principal trade body for negotiations with governments. He was chairman, vice-president and president twice. He chaired the association's non-fiscal legislative committee from 1974 until 1980. Dyk also had considerable influence in the drafting of the petroleum revenue tax law introduced by the Labour government.

In 1975 Dyk was awarded an honorary CBE for his contribution to the oil industry after Hamilton's Argyll field became the first into production on the UK continental shelf on June 18 that year. He later advised the energy department on the formation of Enterprise Oil. He was a fellow of the Royal Geological Society. Four years after he retired, Dyk became a non-executive director of Great Western Resources, a Texan company which had made several discoveries in the Gulf of Mexico under his guidance.

Dyk's wife, Marirose, died in 1984. He is survived by two sons and a daughter.

PROFESSOR IAN COWAN

Ian Borthwick Cowan, professor in Scottish history in the University of Glasgow, died on December 22 at the age of 58. He was born on April 16, 1932.



MEDIEVAL Scotland has not left rich native records and the historian who studies its religious organisation and life must envy the episcopal and inquisitorial records surviving from other provinces of the church. But the Vatican houses a record for the whole church, just the resource which Scotland had lacked. From the mid-1960s Ian Cowan directed, and participated in, the systematic examination of petitions to the Pope (in 3,000 volumes before 1560), of financial records, of registers of letters and briefs, to microfilm all Scottish entries and to note the persons and places in them.

Others shared the task, but each year, living in the British School in Rome (whose faculty he joined for a time), he worked in the Vatican archives, acquired mastery of its repertories, modern and antique, and drove himself and his team in the search through volumes whose handwriting deteriorated as the decades were worked through.

He built up in the University of Glasgow an archive whose riches informed his own revisionist view of the pre-Reformation kirk, contributed to numerous studies of fifteenth and sixteenth century Scotland, and will serve many future generations of scholars. Within sight of tidying-up after some 15 years, he welcomed a second challenge when the Vatican archives received the registers of the Penitentiary, available for the first time, but hesitantly and only with (cheerfully given) backing from Glasgow's archbishop.

So the task stretched out to 22 years, yielding new and fascinating insight into the failings of clergy and laity whose agents petitioned for dispensations up to the year of break with Rome — and after. Ian Cowan published only one volume of this material; his achievement in collecting it will be honoured long after the normal span of a scholar's repute has expired.

A graduate of Edinburgh University as MA and PhD (the latter yielded his work of reference, *The Parishes of Medieval Scotland:* 1962), he learned his teacher's craft first at Edinburgh University, then at Newbattle Abbey College, which he left for a lectureship at Glasgow University in 1962. Despite the time he gave to his students and to learned societies (he was, for example, treasurer of the Scottish History Society from 1965 till his death), he wrote five books and edited or co-edited seven more.

He was at his most characteristic in *The Scottish Reformation* (1982), a careful examination of grass-roots adherence to Protestantism before 1559 and to Catholic practices thereafter, broadening and deepening our understanding of reform outside Edinburgh and Knox's *History*; this earned him the personal professorship conferred by the university in 1983. His earlier study of *The Scottish Covenanters, 1660-88* (1976) is remarkably judicious, an understanding book about a group who, as he shows, were on the fanatic margins of Restoration society. His edition of *Medieval Religious Houses: Scotland* (1976) is critical and as definitive as a reference work can be.

Clearly his scholarly interests had a pretty wide chronological range — in 1988-90 he came back to the 1689 revolution in several papers — but this gave him added strength when it came to offering occasional lectures or the evening course which he gave annually to stimulate in the community interest in Scotland's history. His work for adult education, nurtured by his RAF service (1954-56) and Newbattle lectureship (1959-62), was not least of the many contributions he made over almost 30 years to the University of Glasgow. He served on senate and court, loved a good committee, but above all was a fair-minded and caring teacher to all his students.

In his last illness he could watch over his first grandchild; he was lovingly nursed by his wife Anna, and their three daughters.

THOMAS STANLEY MATTHEWS

Thomas Stanley Matthews, former managing editor of Time *magazine, writer and biographer, died on January 4, aged 89. He was born on January 16, 1901.*

BORN in Cincinnati, Ohio, T. S. Matthews endured a wealthy but repressive episcopalian upbringing. From privileged but inauspicious beginnings grew a man who was full of life and full of fury. His boisterous college days at Princeton University were his making. He downed a great deal of prohibition liquor and succumbed to the charms of his future wife and to poetry. At Princeton he met Schuyler Jackson, a promising poet who dealt severely with Tom's humble efforts. They became fast friends, and it was Tom who introduced Jackson to the poet, Laura Riding, whom he eventually married.

Having missed the first world war by a hair's breadth, Matthews embarked on a war of words, his heroic intention being the improvement of America's cultural scene. He enjoyed working for Edmund Wilson on the leftist *New Republic* until leaving it for the challenge of editorship at *Time* magazine, then in its infancy. He had an undoubted effect on *Time*, harnessing its clichés, asserting rules of grammar and raising the intellectual tone. But it was an uphill struggle and eventually a political one, when Henry Luce's preference for Eisenhower in the presidential election race finally exposed the magazine's firm Republican sympathies. Matthews left in disgust.

As an editor he developed a sharp eye and wit, but it was subsequently, as a writer, that he bloomed. His biography of T. S. Eliot took a firm line on that poet's political and literary aspirations, but softened the blow with a richness of anecdote. In his autobiographical writing, Tom Matthews was equally critical of his own performance, and wonderfully cynical about life in general. His account of the tremendous upheaval suffered by all who came into contact with Laura Riding, in his movingly honest *Under The Influence*, conveyed an era and the power of a personality better than a novel could, without sacrificing style or subjectivity. He claimed in his old age that he could not help writing but his last works will perhaps be his best remembered. His combination of vivid recollections, irony and good humour is totally beguiling. The books cannot be put down.

Nor can Tom. His intellectual powers, his keen sense of the world's defects and his remarkable tolerance of them, his friendship, his charm, and his ready overwhelming kindness, were there to the end and will be much missed. Determinedly energetic, he died as he started research on a book about his experiences at *Time*, to be called *Time When It Was Very Young*. Would that the magazine had aged as gracefully as its some-time editor. He once wrote "I am too old now to use the word 'love' in the active mood, the present tense. Nevertheless I still have the noun in my pocket."

He leaves his wife, Pamela, and four sons from a previous marriage.

LIEUT-GENERAL SIR GEORGE LEA

R.D.M. writes:

GEORGE Lea (obituary December 28), as well as being a successful land force commander, circumnavigated as overall commander a number of potential "minefields" in the Borneo campaign, which ended Indonesia's bid to absorb Sarawak, Sabah and Brunei. These may have a parallel elsewhere today.

Four governments contributed land, sea and air forces. Their differences, whether of approach or political opinion, needed to be accommodated, for instance, in application of rules of engagement or operational control of diverse units. All these George Lea managed to resolve.

He made no mistakes when dealing with our host nation, which was understandably sensitive to any perceived slight from an ex-colonial power. Similarly, he was sensitive to the way of life of jungle tribes. Nearly every known religion, and probably some unknown, were accommodated agreeably within his command.

George Lea's wisdom and immense understanding of people of different race, armed service or background, together with his genuine modesty, were an inspiration and lesson to all who served him. Any commander called upon to take up a similar appointment has much to learn from this fine example.

Church services tomorrow

First Sunday after Epiphany

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M, Canon P Oestreicher; 11 S Euch, Ridout in D, O nata lux (Tallis), The Archdeacon; 3.15 E, Responses (Morley), Collegium Regale (Howells), Quem vidistis pastores (Poulenc); 6.30 Sermon & Compline, Rev P G C Brett.

YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch, Stanford in C, Canon R Mayland; 11.30 M, Britten in E & C; 4 EP; 6.30 Epiphany Procession.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 M, Responses (Harris), The First Service (Shepherd), Canon J R Porter; 11.30 HC, Missa Aeterna Christi munera (Palestrina), Personent hodie (arr Holst); 3.15 E, Collegium Regale (Croft), Dies sanctificatus (Palestrina), Ven G Cassidy.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M, Responses (Tallis), Short Service (Tomkins), O magnum mysterium (Morales), Canon P Bates; 11.15 Abbey Euch, Missa Aeterna Christi munera (Palestrina), Canon C Semper; 3 E, Sumsion in G, The Three Kings (Cornelius), Rev S Watson; 5.45 Organ Recital, Adrian Stark; 6.30 ES, Rev A Luff.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 HC; 11 Euch, Missa brevis in D (Mozart), From the rising of the sun (Ouseley), There is no rose (Joubert), Rev N Worn; 3 E, Kelly in C, The Three Kings (Cornelius), Canon P Price.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9, 10.30 SM, 12, 5.30, 7; 2.30 Organ Recital; 3.30 V & B.

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 8, 10 (Children's), 6 LM; 11.30 HM, Missa Brevis (Gabrielli), O Sacrum Convivium (Farrant), Fr M Jones

GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL OF THE DIVINE WISDOM, Moscow Rd, W2. 9.30 M; 11 Divine Liturgy

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL OF THE DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD, Ennismore Gdns, SW7. 10.30 Divine Liturgy.

SERBIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL OF ST SAVVA, Lancaster Rd, W1: 10.30 Divine Liturgy.

THE CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, Let the people praise thee (Mathias), Rev K Huxley

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 M, Stanford in B flat, Lo! Star-led chiefs (Crotch), Rev J Robson; 12.30 HC.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, SE10 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Let my prayer (Blow), What child is this (trad English), The Chaplain.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 M, Trumpet of God sound high (Wood), O God who by the leading of a star (Attwood), The Blues & Royals, The Chaplain; 12 HC.

TOWER OF LONDON, EC3: 9.15 HC; 11 M, Dedication Memorial to Rev N A Hood, Responses (Smith), Britten in E, Videntes stellam magi (Lassus), Fr R Gould.

TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street, EC4 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, From the rising of the sun (Ouseley), Responses (Thalben-Ball), Mathias in C, Moeran in E flat, Lo! star-led chiefs (Crotch), The Master.

ST CLEMENT DANES (RAF Church) WC2: 9, 12.15 HC, 11 MP, Stanford in B flat, Jesu the very thought is sweet (Victoria), Rev W J D Sitt.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC; 11 M, Farrant in A minor, Praise the Lord (Blow), Rev J Bicase; 3.30 E, Omnes de Saba (Handl), Wesley in E, Lo! star-led chiefs (Crotch).

ALL HALLOWS BY THE TOWER: 11 S Euch, installation of new Parochus, Canon P Delaney.

ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1: 8, 5.15 LM; 11 HM, Missa O magnum mysterium (Victoria), Videntes stellam (Palestrina), Rev J A Younger; 6 E & B, Watson in E, Quem vidistis pastores (Poulenc), The Vicar.

ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 11 Rev I Bentley; 6.30 Rev S Wookey.

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, Old Church Street, SW3: 8, 12 HC; 10 Children's Service, 11 M, Rev J H L Cross; 6 E, Preb C E L Thomson.

GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street: 8.15 HC; 11 S Euch, Missa spem in Alium (Palestrina), Tribus miraculis (Marenzio), Rev A W Marks.

HOLY TRINITY, Prince Consort Road, SW7: 8.30, 12.05 HC; 11 MP, Rev Dr M Israel.

HOLY TRINITY, Sloane Street, SW1: 8.30, 12.10 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Rev K L Yates.

ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11 M & Euch, Collegium Regale (Howells), Purcell in C, Sacerdotes Domini (Byrd), Canon J Robertson; 6.30 E, Responses (Tomkins), Short Service (Weelkes), There shall a star (Mendelssohn), Rev W Boulton.

ST CUTHBERT'S, Philbeach Gardens SW5: 10 HC; 11 S Euch, L'hora Passa (Viadana), God liveth still (Bach), Rev J Vine

ST GEORGE'S, Bloomsbury, WC1: 10 Parish Communion; 6.30 E.

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Rev G D Watkins.

ST JAMES'S, Piccadilly, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch; 5.45 EP.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, Holland Rd, W14: 10 LM, 11 SM, Fr G Bright; 6 V & B

ST JOHN THE DIVINE, Vassall Rd, SW9. 8 LM; 10 HM; 4 E & B.

ST JOHN'S WOOD CHURCH, NW8: 8 HC; 9.30 Parish Communion; 11 S Euch, Rev D Firth.

ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC; 10 Family Communion; 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Palestrina), The Lord is my shepherd (Rutter), Rev T Devonshire Jones

ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 11 M, Responses (Buttrey), Collegium Regale (Howells), Rev C Richardson; 12.15 HC

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2 8 HC; 9.45 Euch, Rev J Pridmore, 11.30 Visitors to London Service, Rev W Ratchford; 2.45 Chinese Service (EP), Rev G Lee; 5 E; 6.30 Taize Prayers, Rev J Pridmore

ST MARY ABBOTS, Kensington, W8: 8, 12.30 HC, 9.30 S Euch, Rev J Watkins; 11.15 M, Rev P Myles; 6.30 E, The Vicar.

ST MARY'S, Bourne Street SW1: 9, 9.45, 7 LM, 11 HM, Missa Brevis (Berkeley), Fr N Kavanagh; 6.15 E & B.

ST MARYLEBONE, Marylebone Road, W1. 8 HC; 11 Euch, Missa Assumpta est Maria (Palestrina), Videntes stellam (Poulenc), The Rector; 6.30 E, Rev I Brown.

ST MARY-LE-STRAND (WRNS Church), Strand WC2: 11 Sung Communion, Rev E Thompson.

ST MATTHEW'S, Great Peter St, SW1: 8 HC; 10 S Euch, Mass (Merbecke), Br James LBC; 6.30 LM.

ST MICHAEL'S, Chester Square, SW1: 8.15 HC; 11 HC, Rev D C L Prior; 7 ES, Rev D C L Prior.

ST PETER'S, Eaton Square, SW1: 8.15 HC; 10 Family Mass; 11 SM, Mass (Hindemith), Reges Tharsis (Sheppard), Fr A Chidwick.

ST SIMON ZELOTES, Milner Street, SW3: 8 HC; 11 MP, Brazilian Psalm (Berger), Rev G James; 6.30 E, Rev G James.

ST STEPHEN'S, Gloucester Road, SW7: 8, 9 LM; 11 SM, Fr J Towers; 6-9, Vigil for Peace.

ST VEDAST, Foster Lane, EC2: 11 SM, The Rector.

THE ANNUNCIATION, Bryanston Street, W1: 11 SM, Missa Assumpta est Maria (Palestrina), Tribus miraculis (Palestrina); 6 LM & B.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 11 Rev J C Taylor; 6.30 Rev S Dunleavy.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15, 6.30 Rev H G Ross.

THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: 11 Mass for four voices (Byrd), King Jesus hath a garden (Wood), Tantum ergo (Vittoria)

CHURCH OF OUR LADY, Lisson Grove, St John's Wood: 10.45.

FARM STREET, W1: 7.30, 8.30, 10, 12.15, 4.15, 6.15 LM; 11 HM

THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, Missa Puer qui natus est nobis (Guerrero), Descendit Angelus (Victoria), 12.30, 4.30, 7; 3.30 V & B, Sicut Cervus (Palestrina).

ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: 11 SM.

ST MARY'S, Cadogan Street, SW3: 8.30, 10, 11, 12.15, 6.30.

OUR LADY OF VICTORIES, Kensington High Street, W8: 8.30, 10, 12.30, 6.30 LM; 11.15 SM.

AMERICAN CHURCH IN LONDON, Tottenham Court Rd, W1: 11 Rev Ron F Allison.

HINDE STREET METHODIST CHURCH, W1: 11 Rev L Griffiths; 6.30 Rev M Rothwell.

KENSINGTON TEMPLE, (Charismatic), Notting Hill Gate, W11: 9, 11, Communion Service; 2.30, 6.30, Communion; 9 Late on Sunday, Opening Night, The Vision.

KENSINGTON URC, Allen Street, W8: 11, 6.30 Rev P Lovell.

REGENT SQUARE PRESBYTERIAN URC, Tavistock Place, WC1: 11 Rev K Swaine.

SALVATION ARMY (Regent Hall), Oxford St W1: 11, 3 (music), 6.30, Major & Mrs C Hunt.

ST ANDREW'S URC, Frognal Lane NW3: 11 Rev Dr P Morgan.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 HC, Rev R T Englund; 7 Choral V, Rev S Lo.

ST JOHN'S WOOD URC, NW8: 11 Rev W C McCrorie.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2 9.45 HC; 11 Morning Service, Rev Dr G E Barritt

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1, 11, 6.30, Rev Dr R J Tudor

WESTMINSTER CHAPEL, Buckingham Gate, SW1, 11, 6.30 Rev Dr R T Kendall.

WESTMINSTER MEETING SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (Quakers), 52 St Martins La WC2: 11, Meeting for worship.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr K.R. Anderson and Mrs E.C. Porter
The engagement is announced between Kenneth Anderson and Caroline Porter, both of Broughton Gifford, near Melksham, Wiltshire.

Mr J.M. Andrew and Miss C.M. Juniper
The engagement is announced between Mark, elder son of Mr and Mrs Peter Andrew, of Brighton, East Sussex, and Claire, daughter of Mr and Mrs Trevor Juniper, of Bedhampton, Hampshire.

Mr C.G. Barker and Miss S.K.V. Keay
The engagement is announced between Christopher (Kit), younger son of Mr T. Barker, of Alderney, Channel Islands, and Mrs S.R. Gates, of Bulwer, South Africa, and Katrina, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs E.A. Keay, of Alderney, Channel Islands.

Mr A.J. Bell and Miss N.J. Fieldhouse
The engagement is announced between Andrew, eldest son of the late Mr and Mrs Michael Bell, of Gartocharn, Dunbartonshire, and Nicola, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Fieldhouse, of Kinver, West Midlands.

Mr R.A. Bliss and Miss F.M.L. Jackson
The engagement is announced between Roy, youngest son of Mr and Mrs G. Bliss, of Bucknell, Shropshire, and Fiona, elder daughter of Brigadier and Mrs J.A. Jackson, of Leigh, Sherborne, Dorset.

Mr T.P. Briggs and Dr A.M. Arnold
The engagement is announced between Timothy, youngest son of Mr Jack Briggs, OBE, and Mrs Briggs, of Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and Anne, younger daughter of Dr and Mrs Philip Arnold, of Poole, Dorset.

Mr P. Coles and Miss C. Phillips
The engagement is announced between Philip, son of Mr and Mrs John Coles, of Cambridge, New Zealand, and Clare, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Phillips, of Coggeshall, Essex.

Mr A.R. Costard and Miss S.L. Hannam
The engagement is announced between Andrew, eldest son of Mr and Mrs W.A. Costard, of Taunton, Somerset, and Sarah, only daughter of Mr and Mrs M.N.B. Hannam, of Chard, Somerset.

Mr I.D. Dennis and Miss S.A. Hart
The engagement is announced between Ian David, second son of Mr and Mrs George Dennis, of Bitterne, Southampton, and Sally Ann, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Tony Hart, of Wrotham Hill Park, Kent.

Mr A.R.R. Eastwood and Miss J.R. Coates
The engagement is announced between Anthony, younger son of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs Geoffrey Eastwood, of West Stoke, Chichester, and Jennifer, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Coates, of Kensington, London.

Mr S. Hall and Miss N.J. Hibbs
The engagement is announced between Stephen, son of Mr and Mrs Lesley Hall, of Watford, Hertfordshire, and Nicola, daughter of Mr and Mrs Raymond Hibbs, of Faversham, Kent, on January 5, 1991.

Mr R.F. Jarvis and Miss K. Rennie
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Air Commodore and Mrs J.F. Jarvis, of Bushey Heath, Hertfordshire, and Karen, daughter of Group Captain and Mrs J. Rennie, of Monchen Gladbach, Germany.

Mr S.J. Loveridge and Miss A.J. Pearce
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr S.J. Loveridge, of Wedhampton, Wiltshire, and Mrs M. Mallaburn, of Corsham, Wiltshire, and Annette, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Pearce, of Fulham, London.

Mr D.W. Mocatta and Miss C.A. Fell
The engagement is announced between David, eldest son of the late Lieutenant-Commander R.H. Mocatta and of Mrs E.M.E. Mocatta, of Haslemere, Surrey, and Caroline, daughter of the late Mr C.S. Fell and of Mrs C.S. Fell, of Nether Wallop, Hampshire.

Dr D.S. Nelki and Miss H.A. Schrader
The engagement is announced between Daniel, eldest son of Gordon and Andra Nelki, of Stockwell, London, and Hilary, only daughter of John Schrader, of Hambleton, Rutland, and Sheila Woodhouse, of Whetstone, London.

Captain M.P.D. Onslow and Miss L.A. Jolly
The engagement is announced between Michael Onslow, The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment), son of Mr and Mrs I.D. Onslow, of Brockenhurst, Hampshire, and Lesley, eldest daughter of Mrs E. Jolly and the late Mr K. Jolly, of Great Baddow, Essex.

Mr G.P. Shropshire and Miss C.H. Cox
The engagement is announced between Guy Peter, younger son of Mr G.S. Shropshire and the late Mrs J. Shropshire and stepson of Mrs C.M. Shropshire, of Barway, Cambridgeshire, and Clare Harriet, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs D.E. Cox, of Pulham St Mary, Norfolk.

Mr S.A.C. Rendell and Miss D.B. Mundil
The engagement is announced between Simon, only son of Donald and Ruth Rendell, of Polstead, Suffolk, and Donna, only daughter of Frederick and Beverly Mundil, of Salt Lake City, Utah, USA.

Mr M.G. Van der Woude and Mrs G. Ironside
The engagement is announced between Michael, elder son of Mr Gerrit and the late Lady Penelope Van der Woude, of Heronden, Eastry, Sandwich, Kent, and Gloria, eldest daughter of Mr William and the late Mrs Betty Wood, of Paddock Wood, Kent.

Mr S.W. Wills and Miss J.E. Rees
The engagement is announced between Simon, elder son of Mr and Mrs W.R. Wills, of Sheffield, and Jill, daughter of Mr and Mrs D.A. Rees, of Chesterfield.

Marriage

Mr G.N.J. Willoughby and Miss F.K. Stewart-Blacker
Following the marriage in Kabul, Afghanistan, between Mr Guy Willoughby, son of Brigadier the Hon Christopher Willoughby and the Hon Mrs Jean Willoughby, and Fiona Stewart-Blacker, daughter of Mr and Mrs Patrick Stewart-Blacker, a family service was held on December 22, 1990, at St Catharine's Church, Blairgowrie. The Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane officiated.

The bride was given in marriage by her father and was attended by Johnny Critchley-Salmonson.

A dance will be held in Scotland in May.

Weekend anniversaries

Today

BIRTHS: Jean-Baptiste van Helmont, chemist, Brussels, 1580; Lazzano Spallanzoni, chemist, Modena, Italy, 1729; Edmund Burke, statesman, Dublin, 1729; Johann Pestalozzi, educator, Zurich, 1746; John Singer Sargent, portrait painter, Florence, 1856; Sir Chares Oman, historian, Mozufferpore, India, 1860; Jack London, novelist, San Francisco, 1876; Ference Molnar, dramatist, Budapest, 1878.

DEATHS: Dame Agatha Christie, Wallingford, Oxon, 1976.

The Royal Aeronautical Society of Great Britain was founded, 1866.

Tomorrow

BIRTHS: Jan van Goyen, landscape painter, Leiden, Netherlands, 1596; Charles Perrault, writer and collector of folk tales, Paris, 1628.

DEATHS: Edmund Spenser, poet, London, 1599; George Fox, founder of the Society of Friends, London, 1674; James Macknight, biblical critic, Edinburgh, 1800; Stephen Collins Foster, song writer, New York, 1864; James Joyce, novelist, Zurich, 1941; Hubert Humphrey, vice-president of the USA 1965-69, Waverley, Minnesota, 1978.

The Independent Labour Party was founded, 1893.

Royal Aeronautical Society

The Royal Aeronautical Society is proud to celebrate the 125th anniversary of its foundation today. Events are planned during the year to mark this historic milestone in the life of the society.

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But God's mercy is so abundant, and his love for us is so great that while we were spiritually dead in our disobedience he brought us to life with Christ.
Ephesians 2:4 GNB

BIRTHS

CLARKE - On December 30th, to Clare (née Brown) and David, a son, Benjamin Thomas.

FLATT - On January 10th, to Anthony and Beverley, a beautiful daughter, Charlotte Rebecca.

FORD - On January 7th to Helen (née Nicholas) & Robert, a son Matthew Nicholas in N.J., USA. Grandson to Sir David & Lady Nicholas & Mrs Maureen Ford Tayler & the late John Ford.

FURNISS - On January 8th 1991, to Isabel (née Sherwood King) and Colin, a daughter, Mary Elizabeth Grace, a sister for Georgina.

HEDGES - On December 28th 1990, to Jane (née MacQuitty) and Philip, a daughter, Alicia.

LOUIS - On January 8th, to Natasha and Nicholas, a daughter, Elizabeth Mary.

MacDOUGALD - On January 7th 1991, to Lucinda (née Broadbridge) and Hugh, a daughter, Fiona, a sister for James. Thanks to all the staff at St George's Hospital.

NAPIER - On January 8th 1991, to Rosamund (née Thomas-Ferrand) and John, a daughter, a sister for Charles and Sophie.

RUSSELL - On January 11th, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to John and Samantha (née Merryfield), we thank God for a beautiful healthy daughter, Chantal Felicity Mary.

DEATHS

BRADLEY - On January 9th 1991, peacefully at the Princess Elizabeth Hospital, after a short illness, Charles Hugh Granville, of La Cité, St Peter's, in his 90th year. Husband of Dorothy (Dordie) and father of Patty, Brian, Caroline and the late Jeremy. Funeral Service at St Peter's Parish Church on Tuesday January 15th at 11 am. Private cremation. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to The Friends of Les Bourgs Residential Hospice c/o 4 College Street, St Peter Port.

BRENNAN - On January 10th, Mary Jane. Requiem Mass, 11 am, Wednesday January 16th at St Peter & Paul, Yeadon, Leeds, followed by private burial.

CARDEW - On January 10th, suddenly and peacefully at home, Bubbles, in her 90th year, widow of Bruce. Cremation, Golders Green, 1.50 pm, Tuesday 15th. Flowers to Leverton & Sons, 181 Haverstock Hill, London NW3, by 10.30 am please.

CHAPMAN - On January 10th 1991, Brigadier Arthur Peter C.B.E., O.B.E., P.S.C., F.R.H.S. VX1111. 2/7th Battalion 6th Division, Australian Imperial Forces. Of 'Kil Lel', Waverley Ridge, Crafers, South Australia. Departed this life, at 'Kil Lel' Bordertown. The loving and beloved husband of Torrie. My most dear. Funeral service at St John the Baptist Church of England, Mundalla, South Australia, on Wednesday January 16th at 2 pm. Flowers to Berry's Funeral Home, 200 Magill Road, Norwood, by 5 pm Tuesday January 15th, please.

CLARKE - On January 10th, peacefully in the Allenbrooke Nursing Home, Fordingbridge, Violet Maude (Susan), much loved wife of the late Geoffrey Clarke, latterly of Coombe Bissett, Wiltshire and of the late Tempest Bouskell, of Blaby Hall, Leicestershire. Thanksgiving Service 12 noon Coombe Bissett Church Friday January 18th. No flowers please, donations to British Heart Foundation.

EVANS - On January 8th 1991, peacefully at home, Salisbury Road, Moseley, Birmingham. Constance, in her 87th year, much loved wife of the late Wilfred Evans and beloved mother of Valerie. All family and friends welcome to the service at Solihull Crematorium, Streetsbrook Road, Solihull, on Friday January 18th at 3 pm. No flowers please.

FELLOWES-GORDON - On Thursday January 10th 1991, eve of his 70th birthday, peacefully at home, House of Syde, Kennethmont, Aberdeenshire. Ian Douglas Fellowes-Gordon M.C., beloved husband of Judith and father of Kip. Funeral private at his own request. No flowers please.

FOTHERGILL - On January 10th, peacefully after a short illness at St Helen's Hospital, Hastings, Jack, aged 67, much loved husband of Freda and father of Adrian, Martin and Tim. Cremation at Hastings, Tuesday January 22nd at 12.30 pm. Family flowers only but donations, if desired, to R.N.I.B. both c/o F. Jempson & Son, 38 High Street, Battle, Sussex.

HAIG-BROWN - On January 10th, peacefully at St Monica Home, Bristol, W.J. (Bill), late Missions to Seamen. Funeral at St Monica Chapel, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol, 2.15 pm on Wednesday January 16th, followed by cremation. Donations if desired to Missions to Seamen, College Hill, London, EC4R 2RL.

IND - On Thursday January 10th 1991, at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, Ann, aged 53 years. She leaves Tess, Jo and Dom amongst many other loved ones. Requiem Mass will be celebrated at 11.30 am on Thursday January 17th at St Philip's Cathedral, Birmingham. Donations to Cancer Research or St Mary's Hospice, Raddlebarn Road, Birmingham 29.

LEWIS - On January 6th, William Edward, aged 33 years, younger son of the late Dr. C.B. Lewis and Dr. M.I. Wray and brother of Mr. C.T. Lewis. Private family funeral, no flowers.

MACINTOSH - On January 10th 1991, Doreen O'Hara, née Cross, widow of Edward H. Macintosh of Rebeg House, Kirkhill. Service on Wednesday at 11 am in St Andrew's Cathedral, Inverness; thereafter interment in Kirkhill Churchyard. All friends invited. Flowers, enquiries to D. Chisholm & Sons, Inverness, tel: (0463) 233592.

MILLER - On January 3rd 1991, peacefully in hospital in Montreal, Sheila (née Carnegie), wife of the late William Miller and mother of Alistair, Philip and Gerry.

PRATLEY - On Thursday January 10th, Stanley, aged 86 years, (late of Twickenham), peacefully at Sunbury Nursing Home. Cremation to take place on Friday January 18th, 11.30, at Hanworth Crematorium. All friends welcome. Flowers to Lodge Bros., Green Lane, Shepperton. Any enquiries please phone (0932) 782669 (nephew).

RAY - On January 3rd, after a short illness, Peter Alyn Ray MBE, FCSD, Hon. STD. Family memorial and family flowers only please. Donations if desired to Southwold Hospital.

REZ-BARACS - On January 8th, in hospital after a long illness, Vera, deeply mourned by János. Funeral Service at Golders Green Crematorium, West Chapel, on Thursday January 17th at 2 pm.

STANDISH - On January 7th, Francis Derek, beloved husband and father. Funeral Service at Holy Trinity Church, Guildford, at 1.15 pm on Friday January 18th. Family flowers only. Donations to Christian Aid Crisis in Africa Appeal, PO Box 100, London SE1 7RT.

STOKER - On December 22nd 1990, at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Montreal, Shirley Linton St. Barbe Stoker (née Harrison) after a long illness bravely borne. Beloved wife of Patrick McG.Stoker. Also survived by her sons Thornley (Susan) and Dermot (Tracy), daughter Carlotta and Grandchildren Harrison, Bram, Cayley and Patrick. A private Funeral was held. There will be a memorial service on the 1st February 1991 at St. George's Church, Place du Canada, Montreal at 2.00 pm. Donations in her memory to the Bishop's College School Foundation, Lennoxville, Quebec, J1M 1Z8 will be gratefully acknowledged.

TOMES - On January 11th, Colonel John Warwick Tomes O.B.E., late of The Royal Warwickshire Regiment, beloved husband of Peta and father of Sally and Jane. Private cremation. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to The Army Benevolent Fund, 41 Queensgate, London SW7 5HR.

TURNER - On Thursday January 10th, peacefully, Winifred Mary, aged 85, late of Oaklands Road, Petersfield. Funeral Service on Friday January 18th at St Peter's Church, Petersfield, at 12 noon followed by private cremation. Family flowers only, but donations if desired to St Peter's Church Fund. All enquiries to Funeral Services (Petersfield) Ltd., tel: (0730) 62711.

VYVYAN - On January 9th, Richard (Billy). Much loved by his family and friends. Funeral at Woodbury Church at 2 pm on Tuesday January 15th. Enquiries to Crews & Son (0395) 264751.

WILSON - On January 11th, peacefully in Cyprus, Robert Angus Munro, D.Sc., formerly of Petersfield, much loved husband of Jane, father of Hamish, Dugald and Sandra-Jane and proud grandfather.

WRIGHT - On January 8th, peacefully, Kathleen, widow of James A.S. Beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Requiem Mass 11 am on Tuesday January 15th at St Augustine's, 1 Manor Road, Brighton. Enquiries to Attree & Kent Ltd., (0273) 688228.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

GRANGER - A Memorial Service for Isabelle. Sunday, January 20th. Details 071-435 6034.

JAMES - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Jimmy James I.S.O., D.S.C., who died on December 24th 1990 will be held at 14.30 on Sunday January 20th 1991 at St Mary's Church, Alverstoke, Hampshire.

LAVINGTON - A Memorial Service for His Honour Michael Lavington M.B.E., J.P., retired Circuit Judge, will be held at St Andrew's Church, Armada Way, Plymouth, on January 26th 1991 at 2.30 pm.

Birth and Death notices may be accepted over the telephone.

For publication the following day please telephone by 5.00pm Monday to Thursday, 4pm Friday. 9.30am-1.00pm Saturday for Monday's paper.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIMES NEWSPAPERS LTD. Recommend that before replying to any advertisement in these columns, please take all normal precautionary measures, as Times Newspapers Ltd. cannot be held responsible for any action or loss resulting from an advertisement carried in these columns.

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STUDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

AIDEEN Welcome home darling! Will you marry me? Your Paul xxxx Always

BEETLE for sale. 6,000 miles on reconditioned engine. £900. Telephone 0272 272538

CAMBRIDGE May Ball - 17th June 1991. £10 off now. Apply Downing College

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FARNSWORTH - Jones congratulations on your Golden anniversary 18th Jan. The Starsfields

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GENTLEMENS dumb waiter reqd any information gratefully received. J Mills 0484 66116

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STUDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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PILOTS - Bargain price books, computer etc hardly used, full details 081 464 5698

SH101 Analogue synthesiser for sale. £120 ono. Tel: Roger (091) 521 3506

SKI Tignes. Two 3 bed studios for March/April £200/week. Christian 071 589 4327

SU, Hereford. Remember Holly Bath? Please ring/write. Richard

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WITTY caricaturist or cartoonist wanted for drawing-writing partnership. 071 281 5408

TO Doc Rosenfeld! Happy Birthday! Love ya - Chris

BIRTHDAYS

FOSTER. Happy 21st birthday Anne, every happiness for the future, all our love Mum & Dad.

KITTEN - Once kissed never forgotten. Happy birthday, love JCXM.

SIMON - Happy birthday to Anneka, 1 today, love Mummy and Daddy.

SERVICES

AFTER-DINNER Speakers, famous faces, personal appearances. MBM 0452 419666

HEDI FISHER INTRODUCTIONS High class clientele. 45/46 Chalk Farm Rd. NW1 071-267 6066. W/E 081- 883 0401. Men 40-65 esp. in demand.

PERSUASIVE and Public speaker (but seeking further speaking experience) seeks opportunity to speak (Free) on behalf of anybody or any organisation about anything (legal only!) Preferably near or in central London Please Reply to Box No 2422

WHEN in London rent a video. TV by day, week, month. Quick delivery Top TV 071 720 4469.

NANNY TIMES

AU-PAIR - Mädchen im Alter von 19-22 Jahren, kinderlieb, Nichtraucherin, Deutschland, Nähe Dortmund, für Familie (3 Personen) hauptsächlich gesucht zur Betreuung eines 2 1/2 jährigen Mädchens. Unbedingte Zuverlässigkeit (Referenzen) und Flexibilität, beste Umgangsformen sind Voraussetzung. Gute Deutschkenntnisse und Führerschein sind erforderlich. Geboten wird eine eigene Wohnung im Haus, Benutzung eines Pkw's sowie grosszügiges Taschengeld und ein Sprachkurs. Erbeten wird eine ausführliche Bewerbung mit Lichtbild an folgende Adresse: Michael Kiehne, Freiligrathstr. 39, 5860 Iserlohn, Germany

WANTED

TICKETS FOR SALE

When responding to advertisements readers are advised to establish the face value and full details of tickets before entering into any commitment.

PRIVATE investor required to fund commercial property investment - security available. Further details on application. 081-689 8460 or 081-771 7260

FOR SALE

TICKETS FOR SALE

When responding to advertisements readers are advised to establish the face value and full details of tickets before entering into any commitment.

BIRTHDAY
1642 - 1990
The largest stock and the widest choice of original newspapers in the U.K.
Also Sunday papers from 1915
Ready for presentation, same day despatch £17.50
REMEMBER WHEN
368 Brighton Road, South Croydon, Surrey.
081-688 6333
ACCESS VISA
NEWSPAPERS

A BIRTH-DATE Newspaper. Original. Superb presentations. Freephone 0800 181803.

ALL TICKETS Phantom, Saigon, Les Mis, George Michael, Clapton, P Simon Rod Stewart. All Rugby Internationals. CC'S acc. 071 925 0085/930 0800.

BIRTHDATE NEWSPAPERS and Newsprints from £10.00. The quality service. Press Archives.Tel (0732) 63355.

HONG KONG SEVENS Join our group for 7 day tour 20-27 March. Fly with Cathay Pacific. 5 nights 1st Class Hotel. Guaranteed match tickets for both days. Call 071-734 9318 or write. Far East Travel Centre, 3 Lower John St. London. W1A 4XA. ABTA 26316

OLD & NEW york, french & pennant stone flagstones, floor tiles, stone troughs, victorian brick, cobble sets etc. Nationwide deliveries 0380 850039 (Wilts)

SALE Old York Paving, ex-public footpath. 120 sq yards. Must clear Tel: 0942 862338.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We fund one third of all research into the prevention and cure of cancer in the UK
Help us by sending a donation or making a legacy to: (Dept TT/12/01) 2 Carlton Hse Terrace London SW1Y 5AR

Cancer Research Campaign
Fighting cancer on all fronts.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

JOHN Brinsmead baby grand, mahogany. Good condition. £1,800. Tel. 021-448 4460. Challen Baby grand. £1,300. Tel: (0684) 574737.

PIANO SALE Exceptional reductions on our extensive range of new S/H and Roland digital pianos. Free Catalogue. The Piano Workshop 30A Highgate Rd NW5 071 267 7671

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTING

GOLD & SILVER cigarette & card cases, also cruets sets & silver candlesticks & anything interesting. Pls call 071-252 1096

WANTED large pre 1920 furniture. ie wardrobes, bookcases, tables, chairs, desks & bureaux & also Oriental & English glass, china, ivory & any interesting items. Tel: 071-252 1096

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

DATELINE GOLD

Are you seeking personal and selective introductions to successful, confident articulate and attractive people looking for loving, lasting relationship? Over 24 years Dateline's vast and national membership has proved the right choice for countless thousands. You too can find love:

Call 071-938 1011, or write to 23 Abingdon Rd, Kensington, London W8 6AL

SELECT GAY INTRODUCTIONS
A confidential, personal service for business, professionals.
All clients interviewed.
Ensure you ask reception for
NEW HORIZONS
Tel: 071-483-2281
(9am-5.30pm Mon-Fri)
071-586-1128 (24hrs)

ACADEMIC woman, young 40's, good natured, secular Jewish background. Enjoys the arts. Seeks intelligent, discerning soulmate. Reply: Box No 2472

ACTIVE handsome professional man, 6ft, early 50's, divorced, living alone in luxury central London apartment with delightful house in the country, seeks very attractive lady, under 45, to share his lifestyle of London sophistication and country pursuits, financially secure, loves romance, long walks, caribbean islands and sharing. Recent photo please to Box No 2449

AMERICAN man, 54 yrs old, sensitive, kind, would like to meet an English girl 24-39 yrs old for a visit to U.S.A. and hopefully a lifetime of happiness together. Send photo & letter to V.J. Johnson, 811 N. Parkridge, Wichita, KS 67212, USA

A NEW YEAR ... a new beginning... why not start a new life? For that exceptional introduction. Call Bonds of Knightsbridge 071 823 8667.

ATTRACTIVE Established lady seeks similar gentleman, 55-61, wide interests, perhaps sports/sailing enthusiasts. W. Sx. Pref. Please Reply to Box No 2489

ATTRACTIVE, established lady seeks similar gentleman, 55/61, wide interests, perhaps sports/sailing enthusiast. West Sussex preferred. Please Reply to Box No 2394.

BACHELOR, 44, modest private means, living mid wales, invites correspondent from ladies interested in second half of life. Please Reply to Box No 2436

BORED in/near S Derbyshire? Prof couple, 2 kids wish to meet fellow sufferers. Reply to Box No 2476

COMPANY EXECUTIVE late 40's recently widowed after long & happy marriage, seeks intelligent, sensitive lady 38-42 to share life and home in the Worcestershire countryside, genuine replies only, photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 2485

COMPATIBLE single man sought by woman (36). Well educated and good appearance. Please Reply to Box No 2486

DIPLOMAT'S daughter slim pretty affluent 68 seeks equal standing Oxbridge London prof man Box No 2492.

GRAPHOLOGIST Wide experience compatability reports 071 821 8918

'THE ULTIMATE in small, made-to-measure marriage bureaux' (5 Tel.) Est. 1960. Katherine Allen, 18 Thayer St. London W1M 5LD. Tel: 071-935 3115

DINNER PARTIES If you're single 25+ & want to make lots of new friends call London Epicureans. 081-346 9255, 081-367 1896.

HEATHER JENNER - The Marriage Bureau (est. 1939 Member SMB.) Why not let our experience help you find a partner? 124 New Bond St. W1. 071-629 9634.

HIDDEN away in Gloucestershire. Attractive, well-travelled, articulate, but shy lady, early 40's seeks the friendship of intelligent gentleman. Please Reply to Box No 2447

I AM a calm, happy, slim and stylish lady living in Hampshire, who would like to meet an honourable, well established, good natured man between 50 and 65 I like opera, chamber music, dancing and many other of the good things in life. If you would like to make contact, please write to Box No 2430, a photograph would be appreciated.

JANUS INTRODUCTION Bureau. Professional and nationwide. Est 1982. Member ABIA. Free brochure. Tel: 0565 52516. 8 Gaskell Avenue, Knutsford, Cheshire.

KNIGHT on the Piste (36) seeks Snow Princess (28-35) with whom to ski the downhills and slaloms of life in London/Alps. Please Reply to Box No 2491

LADY - Mid forties, with oodles of style flair and sex-appeal, living Kent and Sussex border. Excellent home maker & cook. Loves socialising, entertaining, Theatre and travel. Seeks well-heeled refined Gentleman with compatible attributes. Must have good sense of humour. Interest in cooking could tip the balance favourably. Supply Photo and height Please Reply to Box No 2460

LADY - Director. Tall, Slim, Blond, 45 years. Would like to meet successful Jewish Gentleman, 50-60 years. To share sense of fun, good things in life as well as being home loving with view to marriage. Photo appreciated Please Reply to Box No 2436

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

NO!
All Introduction Agencies aren't the same. This one is different.
CANDLEBURNERS
THE Personal Introduction Company for attractive, well educated, professional people.
071 371 5535

DRAWING DOWN THE MOON
The thinking person's introduction agency.
"An upmarket, personalised service" The Times
For professional, creative and business people living in London and S. East
For a friendly consultation phone today
071 937 8880, 938 2151
Established 1984. Member ABIA

ALONE IS NOT ALIVE
Start the search for your soul mate. Call Jannifer Wills for a straight-talking, highly successful introduction service
071 287 0935

MALE, 42, fairly good looking /classy/wealthy/fun but cuckolded, looking for lady friend, say 38 - 45, as confidante, opera/restaurant partner. Central or S.W. London. Please Reply to Box No 2468

OLD FRIENDS Civilised introductions for the over 40's - A countrywide service with a personal touch. Details from Anne Brent. 071-226 5432.

SINCERE FRIENDS Would you like to meet some non-smokers over 40 who enjoy life. Phone 0251 265583. No help - no fees

SINGLE GOURMET CLUB. Why not meet and eat with us? Call Janet 071 937 4622

TIMES NEWSPAPERS LTD. reserves the right to refuse any advertisement put forward for publication in these columns. The use of a Box number is recommended when advertising. Before replying to any advertisement in these columns, please take all normal precautionary measures, as Times Newspapers Ltd. cannot be held responsible for any action or loss resulting from an advertisement carried in these columns.

TOP UNATTACHED People - The Executive Club Tel: 081 763 1799 24 hrs Just Listen!

TOWN/country lass 48, Slim, blonde, definitely not 'over the hill'. Seeks friendship, laughter etc with nice town/country chap. Berks, Oxon, Bucks preferred. Please Reply to Box No 2455

WANTED - A genuine, tall, single, professional man, 35-45 years looking for a female friend. Tel: 071 727 2882 between 6-10pm

51 YEAR OLD Country based man, divorced, 5'10", attractive to the right beholder, seeks intelligent, independent, fairly slender woman to be his best friend and partner. Anywhere. Please Reply to Box No 2486

SHORT LETS

MAYFAIR - Weekly/Short Let. 2 Double beds, recpt etc. Special offer Jan to March £280 p.w. incl. Tel:071-8319473.

SELF-CATERING

DORDOGNE (Sarlat). Superb renovated farmhouse. Private pool, slps 8-10 pp. Stunning views, dishwasher, linen etc. In 1 acre private grounds. From 7,000 - 12,000 FF pw: Phone: (01033) 53.29.80.46 Fax: 53.29.09.75

FLATSHARE

BATTERSEA - Prof M/F to share comfortable house O/R. C/H. W/M. nr BR. £260 pcm excl. Tel:071-2234721 (E).

BATTERSEA. Girl 26+ for own double room in large house with garden £300 pcm exc bills 071 223 4939.

CLAPHAM Very lrg dbl rm in spacious, lux hse/gdn. VG transport. Prof M/F. Avail immed. £380pcm incl. 071-738 8364.

CLAPHAM NORTH. Basement flat. F N/S. for O/R. £65 pw excl bills. Deposit 1 month. Tel 071-733 1957 eves/weekends

EXCELLENT single room in Brook Green, Hammersmith. Situated in large garden flat with own french windows onto private garden. Excellent for travel, 3 tubes close by. Near to shops/ entertainment £85 pw incl. Tel: 071-602 5087 home or 071-250 0870 work.

HIGHGATE Prof N/S to share lux flat nr tube with all mod cons. £250pm. 081-340 4235.

MAIDA VALE- Prof M/F to share Lux flat. Dbl Rm.TV/vid.Tube 5 mins.£78pw inc.0819691441.

MIDDLESEX. Light, bright and spacious, own room in family home, bed, breakfast and evening meal. Monday-Friday. £60pw. Suit N/S prof man. 081-977 1808.

N16 Very large dbl rm in spacious lux hse/gdn. Good transport. City 10 mins. Prof m/f. N/s. £70pw. 081-806 6604

QUIET prof. M/F (NS) req to share lge house (Islington) with owner. Ideal for city. £390 incl pcm. 071-359 9960 after 7pm

SOUTH KENSINGTON area. 1 person to share. V.nice. Lg. Lux. Sunny flat All mod cons Own Dbl.bdr.£125.00 p w.370-5259

ST. KATH'S DOCK. E.1.Super Quality Houseshare. Couple/Single. Ensuite B/room. Waterway views. £390 p.c.m. Tel: 0892 511682

W.9. Shirland Road. Dbl.rm.in 3 bed. flat. CH. All mod. cons. Warwick Ave tube. £130 p.w.excl. Tel: 071 286 2966

W. EALING Own room in comfortable pleasant house. lady 30+. Close shops/ tube. Tel: 081-840 3188 (Eves/ Wkends).

WANDSWORTH - M/F to share house with one other. Small garden. Close B R., C/H. £295 pcm Tel:081-8779143.

RENTALS

ACCOMMODATION URGENTLY req for City Institutions. Call us with your properties to let Sebastian Estates 071 381 4998

BLACKHEATH SE3 Unfurn spac 2 bed 2 bath garden flat, fully carpeted and curtained, £161pw. 081 318 6530 I

CANONBURY/Islington 2 bed luxury flat. Antique furn. £240 pw. Tel: 071-901 2303

CHELSEA SW10 Spacious s/c flat with entr hall, recep room, dbl bedroom, kit, bathroom, exc storage. £175pw incl of CH & HW. Tel: 071 382 8969.

CHELSEA extra light lux balcony apt. Dble bedrm, good recep, lifts, porters. 071-622 5826.

RENTALS

CHELSEA. Modern 2 rms, k & b, CH. nr transport. £150pw inc. (03722) 73137

CLAPHAM Super Large 4 bed flat, Lnge, Bathroom, fully equip kit. GCH.Ideal sharers. £245.00 p.w. Tel: 081 671 2056 or 071 287 0136

DORSET House, Gloucester Place, NW1. 3 bedrm lux flat. £400pw inc CH & HW Phone 0831 363366 Mobile. 021-455 0667 Home.

EALING Spacious 3 bed hse. Suit family. Close shops, tube, BR. £699 pcm. Tel: 081-567 7890.

EUROPEAN & American Bankers & Diplomats require apartments and houses up to £2000 pw in SW1 SW3. Contact Keith Cardale Groves. 071-730 6191

HAMPSTEAD Near tube. Newly converted flat, double bed, living rm, kitchen, bath, paved gdn. £250 pw. 071-435 6738.

HOLLAND PK. priv.sq. mod family hse fur/un fur. 5 bd. 2 rec. gge.gdn.£600 pw 071 609 0601

ISLINGTON N5 Distinctive, well maintained, fully equipped 1 bed flat in Conservation Area. Conservatory, own large secluded garden. Long/Short let. £200pw Tel 071 226 9709 Fax 071 354 2790

MARBLE ARCH, Mayfair, Hyde Park. The finest selection of luxury long and short lets. Friendly service & advice. Seasonal discounts. Globe Apartments. 071-936 9512 (ext 1980)

PUTNEY - 4 Bed flat. Gas C/H. Convenient location.Good con.£1,200 PCM.0817856401.

PUTNEY. N/S for rm in super house. All facil + gdn and tennis ct. £295 pcm. 081-871 0125

TULSE HILL Lux v. lge studio flat. FF. £100 pw. Tel. Mrs Brash 0335-46040.

W1. 1 bed mews flat. 1 minute Oxford Street. £225 pw. Tel: 081-965 9888 ext 395.

W1 Huge 2 bed. 2 bath flat in prestigious block, all facs. £325 pw. Superb. 071-732 9794.

DOMESTIC AND CATERING SITUATIONS

BUTLER 38, excellent references seeks position in central London Tel: 0273 696244, 6-8 p.m.

SITUATIONS WANTED

RETIRED Secretary (64 Years). Short hand/wp. (IBM Multimate) seeks 2/3 day Position. Tel:081 554 5967

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

GREECE Southern Peloponnese nr. Monemvasia old fashioned house nr. sea slps 8. £120 - £180pw. Fenton 0725 859616

SELF-CATERING FRANCE

Dordogne 18th Century house. Sleeps 8/9. Exquisite views. Peace, piano and Pool. All mod cons. Tel: 081 8927504.

LOT ET GARONNE Unwind in peaceful comfortable 2 pers. gdn flat in 14c water mill by river. £56-150pw. Tel: (0573) 827212 or 010 33 53365378.

SELF-CATERING ITALY

PORTOFINO Piazzetta 2 bedroom appartment (75 Sq Metre) for sale or exchange for similar appartment in central London. Tel. 010 39 10 319312. Fax 010 39 10 302975.

SELF-CATERING MALTA & GOZO

GOZO - Away from it all. 3 Bedroom Apartment. Ten minutes amble to the beach. Tel: 0702 436000 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

SELF-CATERING SPAIN

ANDALUCIA Houses to let in lovely mountain village, 1 hour Gib/Marbella. 0203 413628.

BEGUR, Catalonia. 3 bed det villa, sea 1 mile £200-£480 pw. Tel. 081 874 0198.

CALPE Alicante. 2 Bedroom Apartment for six.Overlooks harbour and sandy beach from £100/per week. 0707 50038

MENORCA P. de Addaya holiday house. Sleeps 4, poolside loc'n, close to all facilities. Upto £185 pw Tel: 0628 718900.

SUPERB hillside villa twixt Moraira/Calpe spec med mount views lge pool barn gdn golf 5 mins sleeps 8 tel 0297 20356.

VALENCIA Villa: sleeps 6. Fine, Garden. Near hills, sea shops & city by car. Avail now. Phone 071 706 2139.

WINTER SPORTS

CHALET Parties for 1 to 30 persons in top snow sure resorts. Call Ski Total 081 948 6922.

CHALET Parties for 1 to 30 persons in top snow sure resorts. Call Ski Total 081 9486922.

SKI COURCHEVEL 23/2 to 9/3. 2 places, s/cat chalet, opp Lifts, £425 per person including car travel Tel:0726 882579

DORSET, HANTS., & I.O.W.

VENTNOR. Brand new lux apt superb sea veiws. C/h. open all year. 0983 852259.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
OF MEETING TO BE HELD
UNDER SECTION 48(2)
INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
WESTRIDGE CONSTRUCTION
LIMITED
WESTRIDGE HORTON
HOMES LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

that a meeting of unsecured creditors has been convened by the administrative receivers of the above mentioned companies pursuant to Section 48(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986 for the purpose of presenting to that meeting a copy of the report prepared by the administrative receiver under Section 48(1) of the said Act and for the purpose, should the creditors think fit, to establish a committee of creditors under the provisions of Section 49 of the said Act.

The meeting will be held at the New Forest Heathlands Hotel, Romsey Road, Ower, Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 6ZJ on Tuesday, 29 January 1991 at 2.00 pm.

CREDITORS SHOULD NOTE THAT THE MEETING IS NOT FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPOINTING A LIQUIDATOR

Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.

A creditor will only be entitled to vote at the creditors' meeting if: (a) he has given to the receiver, not later than 12.00 hours on the business day before the day fixed for the meeting, details in writing of the debt that he claims to be due to him from the company, and the claim has been duly admitted under the provision of the Insolvency Rules, and
(b) there has been lodged with the administrative receiver any proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf.
Dated this 10 January 1991
PS Padmore
and PRC Densham
Joint Administrative Receivers
C/O The Quay
30 Channel Way
Ocean Village
Southampton SO1 1XF

LEGAL NOTICES

TO PLACE YOUR LEGAL/PUBLIC NOTICE IN THE TIMES

PLEASE TELEPHONE DEBRA GYNN ON

071-782 7344
FAX 071-782 7730

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
OF MEETING TO BE HELD
UNDER SECTION 48(2)
INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
CLIFFTOPS HOTEL
(SHANKLIN) LIMITED
LEADING LEISURE
HOTELS LIMITED
FRIENDS OF CARNOUSTIE
LIMITED
PORTLAND HEIGHTS LIMITED
LEADING COUNTRY HOUSE
HOTELS LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

that a meeting of unsecured creditors has been convened by the administrative receivers of the above mentioned companies pursuant to Section 48(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986 for the purpose of presenting to that meeting a copy of the report prepared by the administrative receiver under Section 48(1) of the said Act and for the purpose, should the creditors think fit, to establish a committee of creditors under the provisions of Section 49 of the said Act.

The meeting will be held at the New Forest Heathlands Hotel, Romsey Road, Ower, Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 6ZJ on Tuesday, 29 January 1991 at 11.00 am.

CREDITORS SHOULD NOTE THAT THE MEETING IS NOT FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPOINTING A LIQUIDATOR TO THE COMPANY

Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.

A creditor will only be entitled to vote at the creditors' meeting if: (a) he has given to the receiver, not later than 12.00 hours on the business day before the day fixed for the meeting, details in writing of the debt that he claims to be due to him from the company, and the claim has been duly admitted under the provision of the Insolvency Rules, and
(b) there has been lodged with the administrative receiver any proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf.
Dated this 10 January 1991
PS Padmore
and PRC Densham
Joint Administrative Receivers
C/O The Quay
30 Channel Way
Ocean Village
Southampton SO1 1XF

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
OF MEETING TO BE HELD
UNDER SECTION 48(2)
INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
BROWNS GOLF COURSE
LIMITED
WESTRIDGE
ENTERTAINMENTS LIMITED
LEISURE ENTERTAINMENTS
LIMITED
WISE CATERING LIMITED
PAPPAGALLO LIMITED
LEISURE BOOKMAKERS
LIMITED
SWANBACK CATERING
LIMITED
WESTRIDGE LEADING
LEISURE LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

that a meeting of unsecured creditors has been convened by the administrative receivers of the above mentioned companies pursuant to Section 48(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986 for the purpose of presenting to that meeting a copy of the report prepared by the administrative receiver under Section 48(1) of the said Act and for the purpose, should the creditors think fit, to establish a committee of creditors under the provisions of Section 49 of the said Act.

The meeting will be held at the New Forest Heathlands Hotel, Romsey Road, Ower, Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 6ZJ on Tuesday, 29 January 1991 at 12.30 pm

CREDITORS SHOULD NOTE THAT THE MEETING IS NOT FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPOINTING A LIQUIDATOR

Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.

A creditor will only be entitled to vote at the creditors' meeting if: (a) he has given to the receiver, not later than 12.00 hours on the business day before the day fixed for the meeting, details in writing of the debt that he claims to be due to him from the company, and the claim has been duly admitted under the provision of the Insolvency Rules, and
(b) there has been lodged with the administrative receiver any proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf.
Dated this 10 January 1991
PS Padmore
and PRC Densham
Joint Administrative Receivers
C/O The Quay
30 Channel Way
Ocean Village
Southampton SO1 1XF

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
OF MEETING TO BE HELD
UNDER SECTION 48(2)
INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
LEADING LEISURE PLC
LEADING LEISURE
FINANCE PLC
LEADING COMMERCIAL
HOLDINGS
LEADING LEISURE
HOLDINGS LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

that a meeting of unsecured creditors has been convened by the administrative receivers of the above mentioned companies pursuant to Section 48(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986 for the purpose of presenting to that meeting a copy of the report prepared by the administrative receiver under Section 48(1) of the said Act and for the purpose, should the creditors think fit, to establish a committee of creditors under the provisions of Section 49 of the said Act.

The meeting will be held at the New Forest Heathlands Hotel, Romsey Road, Ower, Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 6ZJ on Tuesday, 29 January 1991 at 10.00am.

CREDITORS SHOULD NOTE THAT THE MEETING IS NOT FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPOINTING A LIQUIDATOR

Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.

A creditor will only be entitled to vote at the creditors' meeting if: (a) he has given to the receiver, not later than 12.00 hours on the business day before the day fixed for the meeting, details in writing of the debt that he claims to be due to him from the company, and the claim has been duly admitted under the provision of the Insolvency Rules, and
(b) there has been lodged with the administrative receiver any proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf.
Dated this 10 January 1991
PS Padmore
and PRC Densham
Joint Administrative Receivers
C/O The Quay
30 Channel Way
Ocean Village
Southampton SO1 1XF

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased person's whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified; after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

BAINBRIDGE Miss GERTRUDE HELEN of 10 CATERHAM ROAD, LEWISHAM, LONDON SE13 5AR died on 21st October 1990. Particulars to SIMMONDS CHURCH SMILES Solicitors of 13 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4BU before 13th MARCH 1991

BATTERSHILL WILLIAM JOHN of 28 Dighton Road, London, SW18 died on 6th November 1990. Particulars to GODFREY DAVIS & BALDWIN, Solicitors of 19A Upper Green East, Mitcham, CR4 2XD. before 22nd March 1991.

IN THE ESTATE OF
WINIFRED MARY HALL
Deceased
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925

Any person having a claim against or an interest in the estate of WINIFRED MARY HALL late of 58 CAMPDEN HILL TOWERS NOTTING HILL GATE LONDON, W11, who died on the 18TH day of SEPTEMBER 1991 whose Will is being proved by the Executors therein named is required to send particulars thereof in writing to us the undersigned on or before 4TH day of MARCH 1991 after which date the Executors will proceed to distribute the assets having regard only to valid claims then notified
Dated this 4th day of
January 1991
Hempsons
Solicitors for the Executors
Messrs Hempsons,
Solicitors,
33 Henrietta Street,
Covent Gardens,
LONDON, WC2E 8NH.

MARY STANDARD WAKELY GENGE late of 78, Wavertree Court, Streatham Hill, London, S.W.2. died on 18th August, 1990, particulars to Anthony Gold, Lerman & Muirhead, Solicitors of The Hop Exchange, 24 Southwark Street, London, SE1 1TY.

IN THE ESTATE OF
JOHN MAUNDER TAYLOR
Deceased
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925

Any person having a claim against or an interest in the estate of JOHN MAUNDER TAYLOR late of NORTH LODGE, 1 HIGH STREET, ESSENDON, HERTFORDSHIRE who died on the 10TH day of OCTOBER 1991 whose Will is being proved by the Executors therein named is required to send particulars thereof in writing to us the undersigned on or before 4TH day of MARCH 1991 after which date the Executors will proceed to distribute the assets having regard only to valid claims then notified
Dated this 4th day of
January 1991
Hempsons
Solicitors for the Executors
Messrs Hempsons,
Solicitors,
33 Henrietta Street,
Covent Gardens,
LONDON, WC2E 8NH.

TRUSTEE ACTS

JOFFE, ABRAHAM ISAAC of 25 DUBNOV STREET TEL-AVIV 64369 ISRAEL died on 1st JUNE 1989 Particulars to BECKMAN & BECKMAN Solicitors of 20 BALCOMBE STREET DORSET SQUARE, LONDON NW1 6NB before 15th MARCH 1991

IN THE ESTATE OF
MARJORIE D. CONYBEARE
Deceased
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925

Any person having a claim against or an interest in the estate of MARJORIE D CONYBEARE late of 27 GILLHAM WOOD ROAD COODEN, EAST SUSSEX who died on the 8TH day of OCTOBER 1990 whose Will is being proved by the Executors therein named is required to send particulars thereof in writing to us the undersigned on or before 4TH day of MARCH 1991 after which date the Executors will proceed to distribute the assets having regard only to valid claims then notified
Dated this 4th day of
January 1991
Hempsons
Solicitors for the Executors
Messrs Hempsons,
Solicitors,
33 Henrietta Street,
Covent Gardens,
LONDON, WC2E 8NH.

ROGER JAMES GREEN
deceased.
Pursuant to the Trustee
Act. 1925 (as amended)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of Roger James Green deceased, late of 21 Lyndhurst Road Hampstead London NW3 who died on the 12th day of September 1990, are required to send particulars in writing of their claim or interest to the undersigned solicitors for the Executor(s) on or before the 21st day of March 1991, after which date the Executor(s) will proceed to distribute the assets of the said deceased among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which he shall have had notice and will not, as respects the property so distributed, be liable to any persons of whose claim or interest he shall not then have had notice.
DATED the 4th day of
January 1991.
Ewart Price & Primhak,
Solicitors for the Executor(s)
1 Downshire Hill
Hampstead,
London,
NW3 1NR

TURNER WILLIAM BAMBROUGH of 31 Glendale Drive, Wimbledon, London, SW19, died on 2nd November 1990. Particulars to MRS CHRISTINE MARY JAMIESON SMITH WILLIAM DOUGLASS JAMIESON TURNER AND MRS VALERIE JEAN JAMIESON CALLAGHAN C/O FORSYTE KERMAN of 79 New Cavendish Street, London, W1M 8AQ. before 30th March 1991

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WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 22

ABOMASUM

(c) The fourth, or true, stomach of ruminants, lying close to the omasum, from the Latin *ab* away from + *omasum* a Gallic word for paunch or tripes: "It is in the abomasum of calves and lambs that the rennet is found, wherewith housewives curdle their milk."

ERF

(b) A garden plot, usually containing about half an acre, from the Dutch, in a country where land is in short supply, *erf* inheritance: "His industry put him in possession of this erf, a name given to a small plot of land, not being a complete farm."

REFEL

(a) To refute, from the Latin *re* + *fallere* to deceive: "Not to coin Articles, but to explain them, and refel the adversaries' objections."

VARVE

(b) A seasonal layer of deposited clay, of service in fixing Ice Age chronology, from the Swedish *varv* a layer: "Hundreds of thousands of beautifully preserved fish are entombed in the varved sediments."

JAN 12

ON THIS DAY

1861

Charges of departmental extravagance are as old as the Treasury; only the figures have changed, millions being now replaced by billions.

WHAT'S A MILLION?

It would probably not make the smallest difference to our readers whether we were to announce a probable deficiency of two or five millions; and such is the cheerfulness of the public on this point that Mr Gladstone would scarcely think it worth while to explain a million or two, more or less, in lonse Estimate. What's a million? Only in a round sum the cost of a Warrior with all its belongings. Such is the Titanic measure of the mighty units we have not to deal with. But we cannot help feeling that now is the time, if ever, for a little timely caution. We are not about to suggest that cheeseparing economy which cut off the allowance for dockyard cats and sold piles of seasoned oak for old stores. But rumour says that under the free and easy reign of universal extravagance strange abuses are creeping in. Expenses once allowed become customary, and services wanted to-day become the institution of servants not wanted tomorrow. Our readers may remember the saving of £28,000 a year by striking off from the Customs the whole staff of Riding Officers. Riding Officers! What could they be? Horse Marines? Who ever saw a Dragoon at a Custom-house? Why, once on a time smugglers ran their goods by waggon trains into the interior, and it became necessary to pursue them. So there was an arm of the Revenue Service for this very purpose; and, once made, it existed by the momentum of all institutional matter; just as thirty years after the war some garrisons in the West Indies were supplied with salt beef from Halifax, because once upon a time an occasional order had been issued to that effect and never withdrawn, though there was plenty of fresh meat to be got close at hand. So the moment a ray of light was thrown on the Riding Officers they ceased to exist, the horses probably having ceased to exist long ago, and the very saddles probably being hard to be found. No department will reform itself if it can help it. On the contrary, it becomes a point of honour to keep line with the rest. Was it ever known that a gentleman's servants all came to him in a body to explain that, considering the style of his establishment and the class of his visitors, they felt they were rather too well paid, and accordingly begged a reduction of five guineas or ten guineas a year from their wages? We fear it is not in the class. Even if conscience prompted it, pride would suppress it. So the Departments won't volunteer a lower tariff, or strike off a single supernumerary, unless they are forced. There is no dishonour in yielding to superior force; so, when a Commission comes down, and the financial screw is put on, then the department yields with a good grace, but not till then. What does yield till then? Nobody will lower both his fees, his position, and himself in the eyes of the world by returning his customary dues. This is a vain, foolish world. It honours not the man who doth not honour himself. You may often sell for a guinea that which would be unsaleable for half-a-crown. You may not be worth 10s a week for any honest industry; ask £2,000 a year and perhaps you'll get it.

Extravagance will, of course, leak out very soon, if only because there will always be those who do not get their share of the plunder, and who very naturally regard with a high-minded indignation those who do.

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THE ARTHRITIS & RHEUMATISM COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH
Dept.TT, 41 Eagle Street, London WC1R 4AR

Working to find an earlier cure

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

TWO
BEING SINGLE IS FINE:
As she watched his face in the flickering light.
BUT NOT ALWAYS IDEAL.
he tucked the wisp of hair behind her ear.
MEETING SOMEONE SPECIAL
Words tumble like a pebble brook, eyes
ISN'T ALWAYS EASY.
laugh, hands touch. The day drifts away like
WE UNDERSTAND.
woodsmoke on morning mist. That's TWO
CALL US AT BOND STREET
TWO
BRINGING ONE AND ONE TOGETHER
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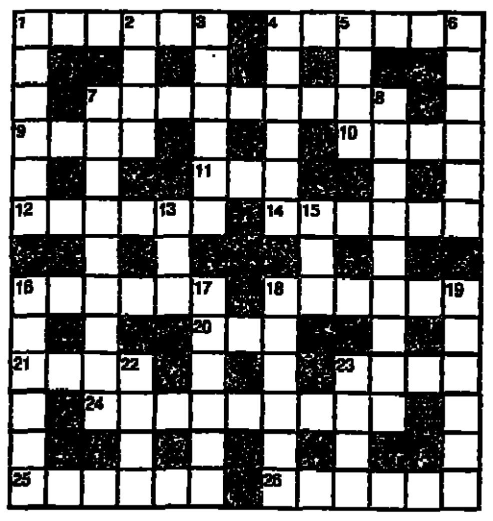


ACROSS
1 John, Paul, George or Ringo (6)
4 Skive (3,3)
7 Clear out (5,4)
9 Precious stones (4)
10 Authentic (4)
11 Greek dawn goddess (3)
12 Natal port (6)
14 Chatter (6)
16 A sense (6)
18 Geronimo tribe (6)
20 To race an engine (3)
21 Mope (4)
23 Egyptian ram's head god (4)
24 Legal system rules (5,4)
25 Deepest part (6)
26 Beat soundly (6)

DOWN
1 Wiretapped (6)
2 Leather strap (4)
3 Cricket team (6)
4 Stylish (6)
5 Pyrus tree (4)
6 Suit maker (6)
7 Groom (7,2)
8 In the future (3,2,4)
13 Grass bristle (3)
15 High mountain (3)
16 Drained (6)
17 Complaints (6)
18 R S P B bird (6)
19 Harem guard (6)
22 Canvas shelter (4)
23 12th Jewish month (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 2379

Christmas Jumbo solution, page 14

ACROSS: 1 Frenzy 4 Adds up 9 Revenue 10 Spear 11 Mild 12 Culottes 14 Express regret 16 Sycamore 18 Opus 20 Rumba 21 Through 23 Mallet 24 Agreed

DOWN: 1 Far 2 Envelop 3 Zany 5 Disposed 6 Spent 7 Parasites 8 Sequestrate 11 Maelstrom 13 Team mate 15 Rapture 17 Camel 19 Brag 22 Hod

Help: Liz Gill, make-up artist

Book a powder and paint job

CLIENTS hardly ever do the most important thing make-up artist Liz Gill asks them to do before she arrives: make up their own face.

"I don't know what they normally look like, so I have no idea how much improvement I am making," she says. "Ideally I like to take a before and after picture so they can compare, but people feel intimidated by make-up artists and are ashamed to show us what they usually do, in case we criticise their choice of, say, bright blue eye shadow."

Ms Gill works in film and television studios, as well as for private clients in and around London who want something for a special night out, a wedding, or simply a new look.

"I never use products which are tested on animals, and as I am not selling expensive pots of cream and so on, people trust me. I am quite happy to use a client's own make-up if that's what she wants, unless she expects me to put on some ghastly pearly eye shadow — I would draw the line at that.

Lip service: Liz Gill

"Wearing an eye colour to match your mohair sweater and handbag is anathema to me. I usually use smudgy browns, and afterwards give the client a print of a face with the colours I have used drawn on so she can copy it.

"People have amazing expectations of what you can do. I am just a make-up artist, not a plastic surgeon. If a woman is a little mouse no amount of clever make-up is going to change her. I once made up a woman who was 52in round the hips, and she wanted me to make her look like Tina Turner.

"Often it takes people a long time to really appreciate how much better they look, especially when the make-up is subtle, which is the way I prefer doing it."

Ms Gill charges £50 for a face; if two or three friends club together she will teach them all for the same price.

"I work by instinct," she says. "I just know what a person's character is like and therefore what their face should look like. What I don't do is terrorise anybody."

HEATHER KIRBY

● *Ms Gill's booking agent is on 071-734 6980.*

Assets

Putting your house in order

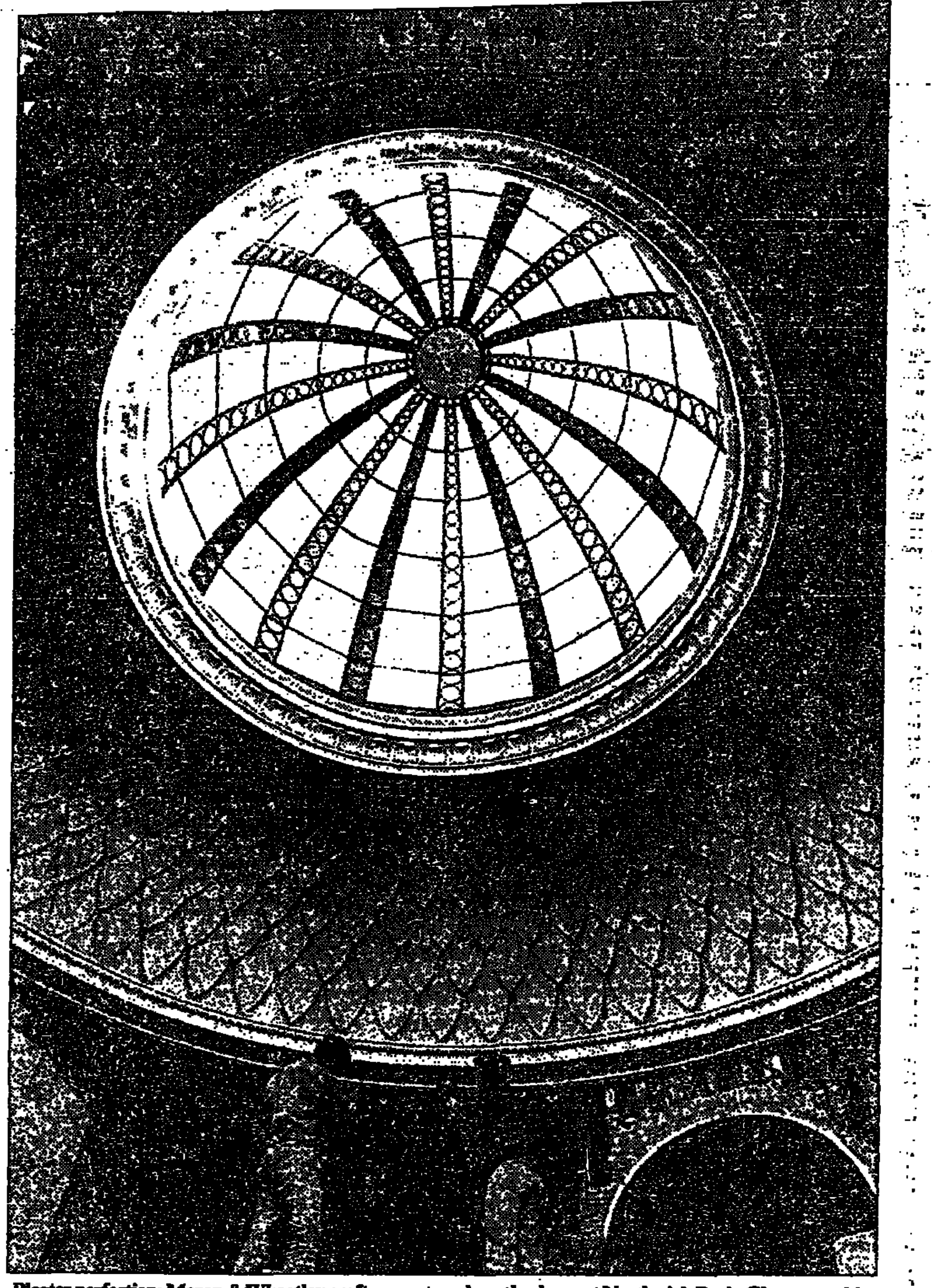
The stagnant housing market has created a boom in restoration and renovation. Instead of moving, home-owners are upgrading and extending their properties. In the case of Victorian and Edwardian townhouses, the trend is to refurbish them in their original style, focusing on restoration or replacement of period fixtures and fittings, rather than tacking on glitzy additions.

As well as adding value to a property, careful refurbishment offers the opportunity to create a look rather than live with a style inherited from a previous owner. Courses exist to help those prepared to tackle exteriors and interiors themselves, but all too often the aggravation and loss of personal time far outweigh the financial saving of DIY work. For anyone too busy or too impractical, a wealth of skilled craftspeople is available to put your house in order. Specialist jobs demand the services of an expert to achieve sound construction and a good finish. Some tasks that seem daunting — renewing plasterwork, for example, or a set of stair bannisters — can be completed easily and quickly by someone who tackles such work all the time.

Other jobs may not be worth the cost or effort involved. Estate agents say that converting a loft or building a conservatory, garage or an extra bathroom is likely to add considerable value to a property; installing an outdoor swimming pool, however, is more trouble than it is worth.

Richard Page, of Savills' Sevenoaks office, advises: "It's best to concentrate on the main architectural features — fireplaces, panelling, windows, decorative brickwork — when restoring a period property. Modern windows and tiling show desperately, so these should be replaced with something nearer the original and it's also important to pay attention to detail — for example, the bannisters should be well finished.

"With major refurbishment jobs like kitchens or bathrooms, it's best to keep the style neutral. It's no good going for a black granite kitchen or a bathroom with corner whirlpool if you're thinking of upgrading a period property to sell when the market picks up."


Plaster perfection: Moran & Wheatley craftsmen at work on the dome at Northwick Park, Gloucestershire

PLASTERWORK

MORAN & Wheatley specialises in ornamental plasterwork. The company's craftsmen use plaster of Paris to restore and match old cornices and ceilings while retaining as much of the original plasterwork as possible. Cornices, ceiling roses, niches, columns, panel mouldings and entire decorative ceilings can all be tackled. The craftsmen will also reinforce period ceilings from the back and replace timbers without disturbing any decorative plasterwork.

Where new features need to be added (for example, if a room has been partitioned off and there is a demand for decoration on the "new" side), these can be supplied from a standard range for fitting by a decorator, by yourself or by the company. The standard features comprise copies of Tudor, Georgian or Victorian originals and some of the company's designs.

All the work is hand-crafted at the company's Bath workshops following an initial home visit to take moulds of the plasterwork to be copied.

● *Moran & Wheatley, Avondale Studio Workshops, Avondale Place, Batheaston, Bath (0225 859678).*

JOINERY

MIKE Twigg is a specialist joiner who will make anything in wood to suit any style of interior. If you are restoring a period property and need to refurbish doors, window frames, skirting, architraves or dado rails he can tackle the work. He can also make kitchen units, wardrobes and bedroom furniture in a style sympathetic to a particular room.

Everything is made to order, in any wood required. Anything from a small Gothic door to an oak staircase with turned spindles can be undertaken by Mr Twigg's team of 25 skilled craftsmen.

"Our speciality is staircase restoration, although we are asked for a lot of sliding sash windows, dado rails, special doors and built-up skirtings," Mr Twigg says. "Staircases are particularly challenging and we are one of the few companies who undertake 'wreath' work, where the hand-rail twists and comes down to the first tread.

"We will work anywhere in the country, supplying and fitting as required. We are often asked to work on listed buildings and period properties. We use traditional tools as well as high-tech machines but in the end it all comes down to hand work."

● *M.J. Twigg (Joinery), Vincent Mill, Vincent Street, Macclesfield, Cheshire (0625 610592).*

LIGHTING

NEVIO Davighi has specialised in lighting restoration for nearly 40 years. He will undertake simple or more complex restoration of all types of light fittings, particularly chandeliers, and can bring new life to Georgian, Victorian and Edwardian wall lights, table lights and standard lamps.

"I don't do Habitat-style modern lighting but I will repair good reproductions," he says. "All metal lamps now have to be earthed, so I strip out pre-war fittings and put in new wiring to make them safe." Converting continental or American fittings to British ones is a job he is frequently asked to do. He will also carry out polishing, silver-plating, gilding and lacquering to make old lights gleam again.

"It's fiddly work and very time-consuming," he says. All jobs are priced individually. A small repair to a table lamp may be as little as £5, while repairing a chandelier might cost about £500.

● *Nevio Davighi, 117 Shepherd's Bush Road, London W6 (071-603 5357).*

METALWORK

RICHARD Quinnell specialises in wrought and cast iron, bronze and brass work and will restore domestic and architectural metalwork (including railings, gates, coal scuttles, weathervanes, brass bedsteads and copper kettles) around the country. He will also tackle fire-baskets and make replacements if they are not repairable.

Mr Quinnell established the British Artists Blacksmiths Association in 1978. Next to his workshops he runs a gallery, Fire & Iron, where new pieces by himself and other blacksmiths are on sale.

● *Richard Quinnell, Rowhurst Forge, Oxshott Road, Leatherhead, Surrey (0372 375148).*

MUCH of Robert Carden's work is for the trade but he will repair and re-polish private clients' brassware, copper and pewter on request. His workshop can be visited by arrangement from Monday to Thursday.

Repair and re-polishing of fenders, bedsteads, coal scuttles, chandeliers and fire-irons are the kind of private commissions he accepts. He is often asked to repair Victorian and Edwardian bath mixer taps and bath racks. A coal scuttle costs about £6 to re-polish and lacquer and a double brass bedstead at least £100.

● *Robert Carden, 12 Namrik Mews, St Aubyns, Hove, East Sussex (0273 738892).*

BATHS

RENUBATH has been resurfacing and repairing baths for 25 years. Most repairs are for the trade but the company will work for private clients. So if you have dropped the shower head into a bath, chipped enamel can be replaced and the repair made invisible. It takes five hours' work to resurface a cast iron or pressed steel bath (plastic and acrylic baths are not accepted). First, the bath is cleaned and prepared. Then two coats of two-part epoxy resin are sprayed on. Finally, four top coats are applied.

Renovating a white bath in the London area costs £175 plus VAT. Repairing chipped enamel costs from £60 plus VAT, depending on condition. Cleaning a whole suite — bath, basin and lavatory — that has become discoloured costs from £50 plus VAT.

● *Renubath, 248 Lillie Road, London SW6 (071-381 8337). For details of branches nationwide contact the head office (0285 656624).*

STAINED GLASS

HENRY Haig specialises in stained glass design and restoration. "I prefer new work but I will also repair and restore stained glass in houses of all periods," he says. "It is always important to visit the site, both for restoration and for new work. Where glass is broken or cracked, we remove the panel and take it back to the studio to work on it there and then reinstall it in the home."

His small windows and door panels pale in comparison to large-scale ecclesiastical commissions, including windows for Clifton cathedral in Bristol and Amesbury's Church of Christ the King in Wiltshire. But all his work is carefully related to the architectural context for which it is intended, using traditional fired and acid-etched techniques as well as resin-bonded and dalle-de-verre methods.

"Much of my work leans towards the ecclesiastical, although I do a lot of domestic secular work for office blocks, banks, schools, surgeries and private houses. I am currently making six windows for a new surgery in Bath. The objective is to create stained glass that is seen as belonging to its own time as well as part of a continually evolving tradition."

● *Henry Haig, Home Farm Studio, Fifehead, Magdalen, Gillingham, Dorset (0258 820268).*

NICOLE SWENGLEY

Events in town

THIS WEEKEND

● **New Year's antique collectors' fair:** About 700 stands, free bus service from Alexandra Palace BR station.
Great Hall, Alexandra Palace, Wood Green, London N22 (081-365 2121). Tomorrow 11.30am-5pm, £2, accompanied child free.

● **Gerrit Ritveld:** Exhibition about the work of a member of the De Steigl group of designers and painters of the Twenties.
Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester (061-273 4865). Today until Feb 16, Mon-Sat 10am-5pm (until 9pm Thurs), closed Sun, free.

● **Boomerangs and throw sticks:** Exhibition of the history and design of boomerangs and throw sticks — the latter do not come back — with 20 other artefacts, including a boomerang given to Edward VII by Aborigines in New South Wales.
Bedford Museum, Castle Lane, Bedford (0234 353323). Today until Feb 10, Tues-Sat 11am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm, closed Mon, free.

NEXT WEEK

● **National Trust lecture series:** First of the year's popular lectures is "English Garden Style" with John Sales, chief gardens adviser to the trust.
Purcell Room, South Bank, London SE1. Mon, 6pm, £4. (Book on 071-928 8800.)

● **International mime festival:** Highlights include El Tricicle, a leading Spanish company, at the Purcell Room, Tues-Sun, and Tag Theatre, a *commedia dell'arte* company from Venice, at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Fri and Sat.
Details of nationwide events from the International Mime Festival, 35 Little Russell Street, London WC1A 2HH (071-637 5661).

● **History of flight theme day:** A "bring history to life" session with actors assuming the characters of flying heroes and heroines.
Aeronautic Gallery, Science Museum, London SW7 (071-938 8000). Thurs, 10am-6pm, £3.50, child over five £1.75, free entry for all after 4.30pm.

● **British horse and rider show:** Nick Skelton opens the show with his horse Apollo, 11.20am Fri. Daily demonstration using the public's horses with Graham Fletcher. Also demonstrations by the Ascot Park Polo Club, Nigel Hollings Yard, and Western Riding Displays.
Wembley Exhibition Hall, Wembley, Middlesex. Fri 10am-7.30pm, Sat, Sun 10am-6pm, £6, under 14s £3.

JUDY FROSHAUG

Winners and answers from *The Times* Quiz of the Year

Highest score winners:
Dora Baker, St Mark's Road, Bracknell, Berks.
Miss Ldu Cassé, Brownhill Road, Chandlers Ford, Hants.
Brian Bridgeman, Buckingham Road, London E11.
David James, Welwyn Garden City, Herts.
Jonathan Wright, Draper's Lane, Hedon, Hull.
No one scored 100 per cent.

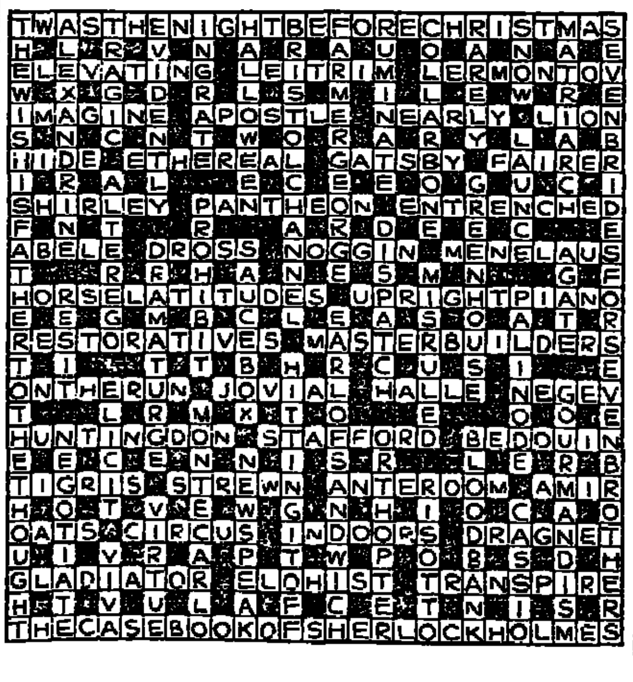
Answers

Picture questions:
A (b); B (d); C (d); D (c).

The rest:
1 The day Britain joined the ERM
2 Paddy Ashdown
3 Edwina Currie
4 Miner at Welsh pit about to close
5 To eat the remains of cremated bodies in the Ganges
6 Asking the British Army to stop exercising on the beach
7 Pizza mix
8 (a) Mr Justice Michael Davies
  (b) Mr Justice Henry
  (c) Mr Justice Harman
9 Arthur Scargill
10 Diss
11 Wrexham
12 All four
13 Raffled for a church restoration fund
14 The Queen
15 On the desk of the president of the World Wide Fund for Nature
16 Contraceptive pellets formerly scattered in the streets have been banned
17 Wanted to sing in new records issued as theirs
18 Manuel Noriega
19 A Penelope Fitzgerald
  B John McGahern
20 (a) John Gummer
(b) Timothy Eggar
(c) Baroness Warnock (d) Patrick Nicholls (e) Nicholas Ridley (f) Ron Brown
21 Deng Xiaoping
22 Malcolm Forbes
23 Lord Cholmondeley

Christmas Jumbo crossword solution

Here is the solution to The Times Christmas Jumbo Crossword competition published on Monday December 24. The five winners, who each receive a prize of £50, are Mrs O.R. Easy, Sherwood Avenue, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire; Philip Neill, Overstone Road, Sywell, Northamptonshire; Jean Black, Charlton Close, Ickenham, Uxbridge, Middlesex; Malcolm Kennedy, Brookmead Close, Eastbourne, Sussex, and R.J. Kershaw, Trent Close, Sompting, Lancing, West Sussex. Entries for the New Year Jumbo Crossword competition must arrive by Monday. The solution and winners will be published next Saturday.



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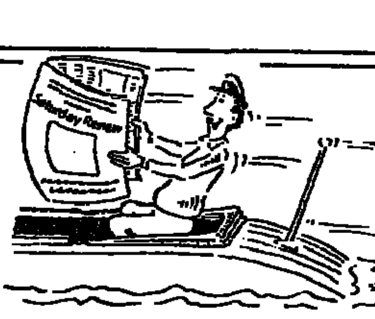

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THE TIMES

Source: TGI 1990

هكذا من الأصل

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Folly of a London doctor

Home from home: Dr William Davey

PAUL HACKETT

Recipe for happiness: Dr Davey and his bride-to-be, Priscilla Kennedy, at their country home — a stone-built folly and timber-clad studio barn

The Queen's homoeopathic physician, Dr Ronald William Davey (William to his friends), took 13 hours to drive to his country home in Shropshire for the weekend of the great snowstorm in December, and when he arrived he was completely cut off, with no heating, electricity, telephone or water. He did not regret making the journey, however, and was back in London at his consulting rooms in Wimpole Street by Monday morning — just as keen to embark on what proved to be an eight-hour journey the following Friday.

The lure in the countryside is a crenellated "folly" in a remote area near the Wrekin which can be reached only by twisting, single-track roads: a romantic retreat which also serves as a studio for Dr Davey's fiancée, Priscilla Kennedy, a mural artist who was born in Shropshire and whom he met by chance while she was out walking her dog.

The couple plan to marry next month from Miss Kennedy's formidable family home close by, the 17th century Acton Round estate. Later they intend to expand the stone-built 18th century folly into a properly warm and comfortable weekend home. This will mean, among other things, building a long conservatory to link it to the barn-like studio Miss Kennedy built because the main house, with its 2ft-thick walls, was too hard to heat in winter.

"We're going to build it out properly, with battlements," Miss Kennedy says. She points out a similar-looking structure just visible on the horizon which is owned, she says, by the actress Julie Christie — a genuine folly, she suggests, since it is uninhabitable and virtually inaccessible.

In the meantime, the couple spend most of the weekends in a single, light and airy room in the studio, which is decorated with furniture hand-painted by Miss Kennedy. She has been working on some pieces there for Kerry Packer, the Australian businessman, among other clients.

Although she has a home in Battersea, south London, Miss Kennedy, aged 43, spends much of the year staying with clients while she designs and paints *trompe-l'oeil* fantasy scenes for them. She studied art in Italy and at the Malvern College of Education.

Dr Davey, who is fiercely proud of her work, has commissioned her to decorate a corridor in his consulting rooms, in the discreetly elegant suite which also serves as his London home. Miss Kennedy was also responsible for the colourful painting of the homoeopathic flowers from his thesis which hangs above his desk in Wimpole Street.

"When we are married we hope to sell Priscilla's place in Battersea and find another home in London for weekdays," Dr Davey says.

Between their local friends and Miss Kennedy's family — "the Shropshire mafia", as Dr Davey calls them — their social life in the country is busy.

"A lot of artists and writers have moved to the area because property prices are fairly cheap and it's such a beautiful place to work," Miss Kennedy says. "I only bought a place in London so that I could start earning lots of money."

The move, she soon realised, was unnecessary as so many of her referrals are by word of mouth and so much of her work involves travelling.

Dr Davey, who is aged 47, divorced, with a son and a daughter from his previous marriage, was raised in London and had a country home in Sussex for many years. He admits he is not a true country person like his bride-to-be, but says he hankers increasingly after the life.

"I have to stay in London for my practice, but I love being away from the traffic fumes, the speed and the stress. I hope to spend more time in the country once we are married."

Since starting to come to Shropshire just over a year ago, Dr Davey has been renewing his somewhat rusty acquaintance with horse riding. Miss Kennedy looks after nearly two acres of gardens at the folly, growing many of the herbs and flowers which are used in homoeopathic remedies — although she says she was unaware of their medicinal potential until she met Dr Davey, and has no plans to start supplying them for his practice.

"Many of Priscilla's friends were interested in homoeopathy," the doctor says, "although she was not particularly. But, no, I have not set up a country practice here and do not intend to."

Most Londoners would find the haul to rural Shropshire, five hours by car on a good day, too arduous for regular weekending. But Dr Davey still enjoys the novelty, and says the time seems to fly whether Miss Kennedy is with him or he is rushing to meet her.

VICTORIA MCKEE

Country events

THIS WEEKEND

- **Weekend walks:** "Birds of the park in winter" — meet the Voluntary Countryside ranger at the Clock Tower, Auckland Castle, Bishop Auckland, today 1.30pm. Take binoculars. "Hough Hall Farm in Winter" — meet the farm secretary at the farm office, Hough Hall, before Shincliffe Bridge, on the A177 outside Durham, tomorrow, 2pm. Both walks 80p, child 40p. Border Country six-mile guided walk — meet Out Lane bus terminal, west of Huddersfield on the A640, today 1.15pm.
- **North Cotswolds antiques fair:** Range of collectables and antique items. Pre-1920 datelines. *Stanway House, Winchcombe, Gloucestershire. Today, tomorrow, 11am-5pm, £2.50.*

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds cruise: There may be some places left for the journey along the River Exe, accompanied by expert ornithologists, to see wintering avocets and other wading birds. If you miss out, however, there will be another expedition on March 2 and 3 (booking now).
Exmouth Docks, Exmouth, Devon. Today 9.45am, tomorrow 10.45am, £6.50, child £3. Booking and further details on 0392 432691.

- **Whittlesey straw bear festival:** Originally, a sort of ploughboy "trick or treat" held on the Tuesday after Plough Sunday when the straw bear went begging for money for the out-of-work ploughmen. Today, the huge "bear" leads a 250-strong parade of Morris, Molly, sword and clog dancers, musicians, street entertainers and the plough to local pubs, dancing at all venues. *Market Place and Market Street, Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire. Today, 10.30am-dusk, free.*
- **Bridgewater Boats open day:** Chance to view the fleet of 12 narrow boats, all named after T.S. Eliot's *Cats* and to learn more about canal holidays. *Bridgewater Boats, Canal Wharf, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire (0442 863315). Tomorrow 10am-4pm.*
- **Holiday exhibition:** Local, regional and overseas tourist board representatives, travel agents, tour operators and overseas property agents. Also a small craft fair. *Town Hall, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. Today, tomorrow, 10.30am-5pm, £1, child free.*

NEXT WEEK

- **International antique and collectors' winter fair:** About 500 stands and outdoor pitches at the Royal Show ground. Free parking. *Royal Show ground, Stoneleigh, near Kenilworth, Warwickshire. Tues 7am-4pm, £2.*
- **Pot plant clinic:** Bring your plants, ailing or otherwise, for professional advice on how to maintain or revive them when they are feeling droopy. *Pershore College of Horticulture, Avonbank, Pershore, Worcestershire (0386 55460). Wed 2-4pm, free.*

JUDY FROSHAUG

Rural rhythm: Straw Bear festivities at Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire

Farmer's diary: Paul Heiney

Ways to darken our lightness

I COULD swear that the days are getting longer. I am sure that a couple of days ago I was able to cart feed to the sheep at half past four in the afternoon, when the week before I wouldn't have been able to find my way.

In some ways, the dark depths of midwinter have been a disappointment. Perhaps I had read too many Victorian farming tales: I expected my winter routine to begin with grooming carthorses before dawn and be ploughing before the sun was over the hill. I have read accounts of ploughmen seeing their way by the light of the sparks rising from the feet of the horses as iron shoe struck flint. Of course, if you're a lazy son of the late 20th century you stay in bed and miss all the pyrotechnics, as I have done. I am resolving to get up earlier. "Won't matter what time yer get up," an old farmer said to me the other day, "we don't have no darkness in the country. Not any more . . . It's these blasted bright lights they have outside these 'ere pubs. Them throw their lights for miles. Why, folks 'ave even got 'em on houses. Blasted things they are."

I swallowed heavily, and said nothing. I had put up two lights only last week.

I can see what he means, though. Unlike the old-fashioned pearl bulb, these quartz-halogen lamps are unsubtle in the way they fling their rays of light. The farm next door even has an automatic one which switches itself on when it detects movement. The trouble is that it cannot differentiate between burglars and hedgehogs. Out for an innocent midnight stroll, Miss Tiggywinkle suddenly finds herself spotlit as if for the big solo in *Phantom of the Opera*.

There is no comfort in these piercingly bright lights: they suggest hostility, whereas a single glowing filament of the old kind offers comfort. A weary traveller looking for shelter would surely be drawn to a warm, yellow glimmer rather than to a shrieking, electric-blue stab. My new lights may yet come down.

To satisfy my curiosity, and to check on whether darkness does exist in the country, I walked to the top of the farm after dark but before the moon had risen. The night was clear and starlit but, as the old farmer had predicted, the countryside was ablaze with more of these blasted floodlights, than there were stars in the constellation of Orion. Their light travelled for miles.

I don't mind the lights that illuminate tricky road junctions, but why should I have to endure the glare of a light four miles away which serves only to illuminate somebody's Ford Escort as if it were a work of art? By the time all this wasted light has been added to the intrusive glare of the Sizewell B building site, which already fills our eastern sky, darkness seems a thing of the past.

Does it matter? Strangely, farmers seem to think it does. They have made the remarkable discovery that weed seeds that have lain buried cannot germinate unless they come to the surface and perceive instant light. Consequently, if you stir up the top of a ploughed field in the dark, the weed seeds which you bring to the surface will not sprout. If you are farming organically, without any weed-killing chemicals, this is an important step forward. Often, much of what is hailed as a new discovery in farming is a res-urrection of an old and forgotten practice, but I can find no reference to this one in my library of venerable farming textbooks. The only story I have come across is of a farmer who was so delighted with a newly invented plough that he took his horses out at midnight to plough by the light of the moon.

So, I am planning midnight sorties when the time comes to harrow the land, ready to plant the corn seed. How we shall find our way around the farm is far from certain: the horses may have to be equipped with miners' helmets with lamps. (No, put away the notepaper, it wouldn't set off the weeds. The harrows would be dragged behind them.)

For the experiment to work, however, we need darkness in the countryside again. Surprisingly the power station builders have already co-operated by dimming their lights a little so as not to confuse migrating birds. I am not quite sure how to put my case to the owners of all those patio floodlights. Still less to the restless, stagestruck hedgehogs who set them off.

Feather report

Ooo, Ouch, Ooo...

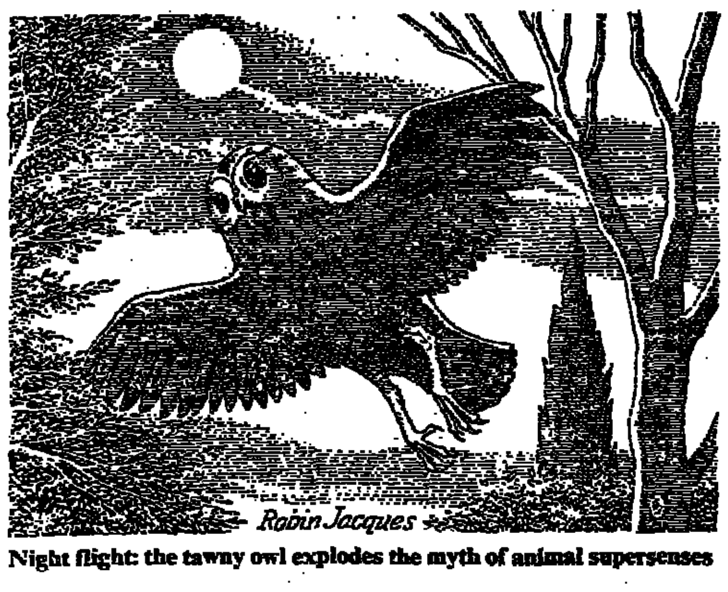
OF COURSE, we all know how owls manage to hunt in pitch darkness, don't we? They have phenomenal hearing and sight. Rather like Superman, in fact. This is the "supersense" explanation, and one that tends to make us all very happy. Isn't nature strange and wonderful?

A splendid book titled *Birds By Night*, by Graham Martin, it has forced me to think again. I am sorry to lose the supersense explanation in some ways, but the reality of owl life is far more intriguing than a simple miracle.

The most fascinating information in the book concerns tawny owls: the ones that go Ooo-Ooo-Ooo in horror movies. They are Britain's most common owl, and they live in suburban woods as well as deep country. They are, unlike many owls, exclusively creatures of the night, and they live beneath the woodland canopy. Thus, they have chosen the darkest possible environment in which to make a living: the hardest and most complex place to survive by plunging from a height on to rapidly moving objects.

Owls can certainly see and hear better than probably all daylight birds. Their sight and hearing are close to the limits that have been evolved by any bird or mammal. But so are our own. Stand in a wood on a moonless night and you will find the conditions appallingly difficult. But you and the owl are on equal terms when it comes to hearing and seeing.

Owls are capable of hunting blind. They can catch prey on sound alone. But that does not make for a supersense. Owls that have been alarmed on dark nights sometimes fly into branches or tree trunks. Owls break bones more often than daylight birds, which suggests that they hit trees rather often.



Night flight: the tawny owl explodes the myth of animal supersenses

Despite this, tawnies are prospering. How so? An understanding lies in our own experience. A little anthropomorphism is a wondrous thing.

We are talking here of the phenomenon called "cognition", or "acquired knowledge". It is accepted as fact that cognition makes an important contribution to perception. One example given by Mr Martin in his book is that of driving by night. Drivers go pretty well as fast at night as they do by day. Night drivers are doing what tawny owls do: they are surviving by interpreting meagre information in a useful way. The driver works on the assumption that the road will continue in the pattern he understands. In other words, the road is a familiar environment.

Similarly, most people can find their way around their home in minimal light, operating on such cues as a bright reflection from a door handle.

The tawnies have evolved the finest eyes and ears going, but that is a long way short of a supersense. They maximise all they can get from cognition.

If you want to find your way around a house by night, it helps to stay in the same house. Tawnies are resolute stay-at-homes. They will drive away young birds that invade their hunting grounds, but if the territory next door falls vacant, they will not expand. An unfamiliar territory is no use.

In their own domain, they know all their own hunting perches. They know every flight path from perch to ground, they can use this knowledge to locate prey with precision, and they can return safely to the branch afterwards.

They can hold this information in their heads easily enough: tests on other species have made it clear that birds possess long-term memory of spatial relationships.

All of this goes to show that we should not think of the problems of animal life solely in terms of the freakish, the bizarre, and the most remote from our own experiences. Our own experiences and understanding can, on the contrary, often provide the key to understanding: after all, are we not animals too?

SIMON BARNES

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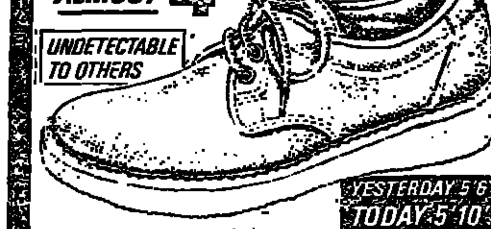

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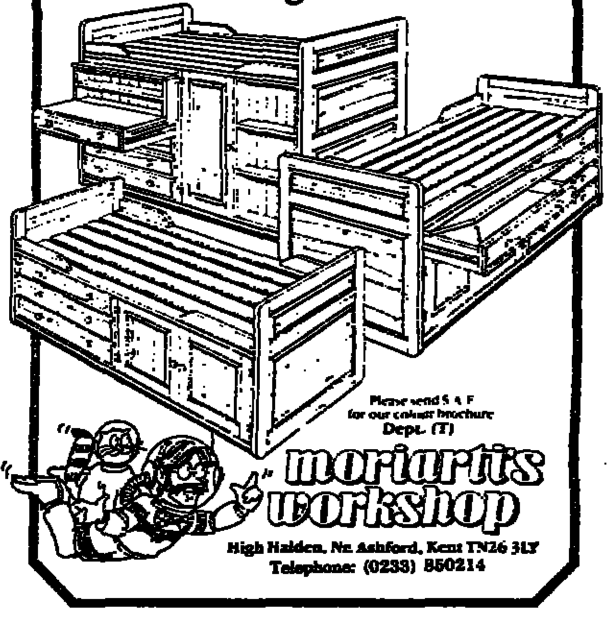

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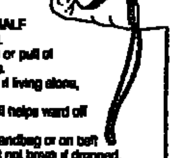

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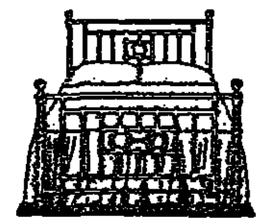

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The high priestess in the troubled world of contemporary art has opened a new gallery. Sarah Jane Checkland reports

ALAN WELLER

Taking the cool view: gallery owner Maureen Paley and the architectural models by Langlands & Bell for which Charles Saatchi paid £7,500

To open a new West End gallery may seem foolhardy at the moment, but Maureen Paley has done so. And she has not bucked the challenge of what she wants to sell. Offerings inside her cool, white space off Bond Street range from a blinking light bulb in the corner to two balls of unravelled wool on the floor. Miniature architectural models and a large Cibachrome photograph of a brain are mounted on the walls.

The risk, however, is not as great as it might seem. Having laboured in her previous, humble premises in Bethnal Green for six years, the diminutive American has established a reputation as the high priestess and spirit guide in the troubled world of contemporary art. Before her launch show opened, Charles Saatchi, the advertising magnate, bought the architectural models and brain.

The troubles stem from what could be called the "Art-lib movement" of the Eighties, when the momentum of progressive art movements which had dominated the century ran out of steam. Casting aside their strait-jackets and an apparent obligation to make "Conceptual" art out of such materials as nappies and soiled Tampaxes, artists launched gleefully into a plurality of styles. In addition, national prosperity fostered a new species of private collector who believed that judgment of quality was merely a matter of self-confidence on the part of the buyer. As barriers broke down, it seemed that everyone, artists and collectors, could become stars.

The problem was that in the gathering chaos, everyone forgot that quality art, like quality literature or music, is a phenomenon evolved from centuries of practise and debate, and that it takes time and effort to assimilate.

Meanwhile, Art-lib had spawned the Art Fair Organiser, who learnt how to gather art indiscriminately into pens, and push the idea of accessibility. "See how easy it is to become a collector," they seemed to say. The most famous fair in the calendar is the annual Contemporary Art Society market at which a smash-and-grab atmosphere reigns. The Art 91 fair comes up on January 24, followed by the Art London 91 in May.

Such events are fine if you want to buy an innocuous item with which to decorate your home. The likelihood is, however, that art providing lasting stimulus, companionship and originality will require a different purchasing approach. This is where Miss Paley and her like come in, by undertaking the ground work on the buyers' behalf.

"I seek clues that they are a true artist, that they have something inside them that has longevity, and then establish a faith in them," she says. "You should never work with someone unless in some way you love them, and believe in them."

Miss Paley took on Langlands & Bell, the producers of the architectural models in her show, after observing the "completeness" and "privacy" of the couple's home and studio. The work, for which Mr Saatchi paid £7,500, is, she says, a tribute to Sir Denys Lasdun, the architect, as well as being a contemplation on the merits of architectural space.

Having seen Angela ("The light bulb") Bullock's degree show of mechanisms that click, flicker and whirr at the Goldsmith's college, Miss Paley tracked down the 23-year-old student to the Surrey Docks, where she had put on her own exhibition. "I saw the work and was taken with her. She is incredibly articulate, and completely in control in designing and making her work."

Other artists were initially noted by Miss Paley, but not touched until their work had developed along the lines she appreciates. The hitch in her art comes with the issue of self-sufficiency on the part of the art work.

As a consequence of the obtuseness of her stock, Miss Paley often supplies buyers with written explanations on their meanings. Is that cheating? How much instruction is permissible before an effort ceases to be art? It is of course acceptable that Ms Bullock's light bulb, for example, comes with replacement equipment and a circuit drawing explaining how to mend it when the artist is dead and gone. But what of her mini-thesis on the symbolism of "Switches and life, aspects and chance" inserted into the kit?

Similar problems arise with the British Sculpture movement emanating from the much-respected Lisson Gallery in the Eighties. The most accessible great art being produced is good, old-fashioned figurative painting, which can be understood simply by bringing our baggage of human experience and current events to bear. For addicts of the "Paley" type of art, who expect art to combine visual with "Conceptual" effect, this sort of work is redundant.

After leaving Brown University at Providence, Rhode Island, Miss Paley came to Britain 13 years ago to take a degree at the Royal College of Art. Six years ago, she set up Interim Art, at her home in Beck Road, Bethnal Green, initially funded by Greater London Arts. Her new gallery, she says, has been a "dream" for two and a half years, and has been made possible through loans.

So where, outside the Paley gallery, should one look for quality contemporary art? An essential first step is to beware the charlatans whose business is giving the hard-sell on the emperor's new clothes. More dangerous, however, are the dealers who have neither the background knowledge nor intelligence to have formed their own authentic taste.

● *Maureen Paley Interim Art, 20 Dering Street, London W1 (071-495 4580); opening show until Jan 19.*

Terminology

Art of coining an arty phase

Fluxus: 1969's *TV Living Bra Sculpture*, by Nam June Paik

Neo-Expressionism: *Girls from Olmo II*, 1981, Georg Baselitz

ARE you stuck in a bog of impenetrable art terminology? Robert Atkins, an American, has come to your aid with *Artspeak*, a guide to 58 "contemporary ideas, movements and buzzwords" afoot since 1945.

Limber up on a chart aligning world events with art events: Jean Dubuffet is discovered coining the term "art brut" at the moment the Americans dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima in 1945, while the first exhibition of "graffiti art" comes into being in 1975, as General Franco dies. Then get down to distinguishing your "bad" painting from your "body art", your "cobra" from your "commodification", all listed in alphabetical order.

The book also covers pronunciation, translating the term *arte povera* ("poor art", created out of everyday materials) into the phonetic "*ar*-tay poh-*vair*-uh".

Do not, however, think *Artspeak* provides an easy key. For a start, the era is marked by a frequent overlap of terms, leading to the speculation that many should be dispensed with. The term "action painting", for example, can be substituted for "abstract expressionism", and "new realism" for "pop".

The list continues with assemblage and *"objets trouvés"*, both meaning art made from existing objects adapted and appropriated into an art work, while "op art" (coined, we are told, by the preppy Mr Atkins in 1964) is identical to both "retinal art" and "perceptual abstraction".

Some movements, such as "fluxus", defy definition, being "more a state of mind than a style". Others, such as "academic art" (the art of the academy) and "alternative spaces" (studios run by idealistic artists' co-operatives) have, over the last generation, changed definition from something favoured to something rejected.

Illumination, therefore, can be followed by the suspicion that most of the great steps for mankind recorded by Mr Atkins were the result of an identical basic impulse: that of making a two-finger gesture at the prevailing styles of an older generation so that the artists in question could feel a sense of progress.

There is also a suspicion that some critics coined a term or two in order to write themselves into the art history books. Whereas "conceptual" art (in which the idea rather than the object is paramount) originated from Sol LeWitt, the American artist, in 1967, the terms "hard-edge" painting and *arte povera* flowed from the pens of Jules Langsner, the Los Angeles-based critic, and Germano Celant, the Italian critic.

Finally, a comparison of the number of movements emerging over the period shows a drying up over time. Eighteen terms were coined in the Sixties, 11 in the Seventies and six in the Eighties.

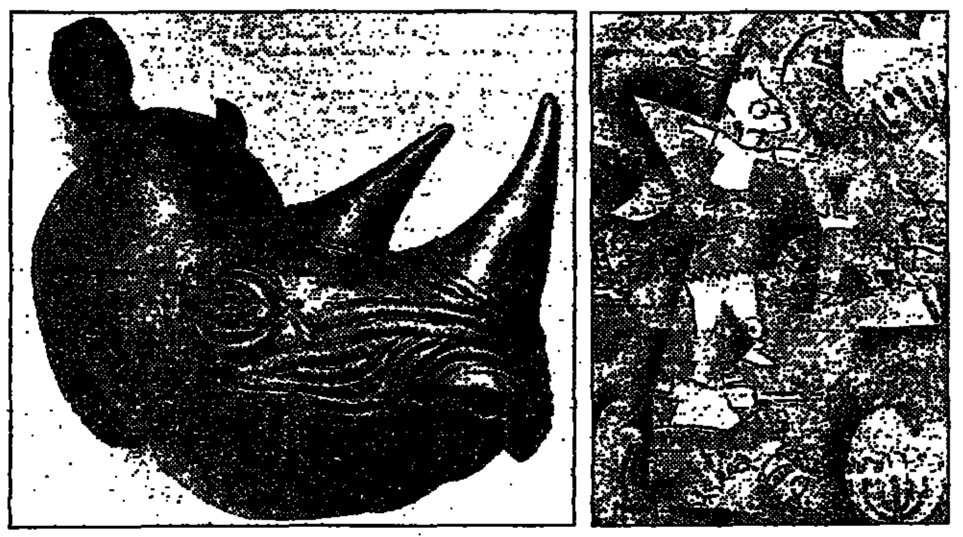
On the one hand this pattern could be said to mark a victory for common sense. On the other, it heralds the homogeneity and direction loss of our present decade. Perhaps artists and critics should start coining again, to jump-start us out of the rot.

S.J.C

● Artspeak *(Abbeville Press of New York) is distributed in Britain by John Murray, £7.95.*

Open house turns into a zoo

Exhibition



Awaiting buyers: Dido Crosby's *Rhino head* (£800) and Patrick Brill's *Bart's Mitzva* (£1,500)

AS London's East End has the highest concentration of artists in Europe, you might expect it to produce the best art. Not so, judging from the standard of the Whitechapel Open, an annual exhibition of about 180 works, from a submission of 1,800, which runs until next weekend.

Heroic efforts inside unheated studios have too often resulted in feeble duplications of established styles, albeit immaculately rendered.

One critic derided the show's "routine efficiency"; another referred to "A new sort of academicism . . . not only dead but unintelligible to all but its makers".

My personal compendium of artspeak describing the styles on show includes:

● **Pretentious conceptual:** Stephen Nelson's *Schlaff:* two twists of torn carpet mounted on the wall (£750).

● **Wallpaper abstract:** Tim Allen's painting, *Vacant Traces;* layers of horizontal scratchings superimposed with areas of grey (£6,000).

● **Punning "Pop":** Patrick Brill's *Bart's Mitzva;* a cartoon narrative featuring multiple images of our mischievous tufty-headed hero (£1,500).

● **Saccharine sentimental:** Mary McGowan's *The Journey II;* a gooey oil painting of a haloed mother and child on a donkey (£900, sold).

● **Ineffectual protest:** Alex Hartley's *Invested:* a tiny painting smothered by the protective packaging equipment, which appears to comment on the values of the art market (£2,000).

● **Feeble feminism:** Nicole Polonsky's *I Do, I Do, I Do;* three images of a bride formed from "angel cake crumbs" (£225).

● **Gimmicky:** Dido Crosby's *Rhino head;* a black stoneware bust mounted like a trophy (£800).

Not surprisingly, there is a distinct shortage of sales. Claims by rejected artists of lack of discernment by the exhibition's selectors aside, this state of affairs is partly due to a general end-of-millenium cultural crisis, and partly because of the newly straightened circumstances under which artists labour.

Cuts in grants to art schools mean less work in part-time teaching, which used to produce extra income and the opportunity to clarify thoughts through discussion with colleagues in the staffroom. And development in Docklands means a continual struggle by artists to maintain roofs over their easels against the march of landlords and developers.

Meanwhile, perhaps as a result of both these problems, the role of the artist seems to have altered to include administration, community and public relations work. For the past three years, community and PR drives have resulted in a huge studio event coinciding with the Whitechapel Open this weekend (for details, see Preview, below), whereby, separate from the exhibition, the public are invited to view up to 700 artists in their natural habitats.

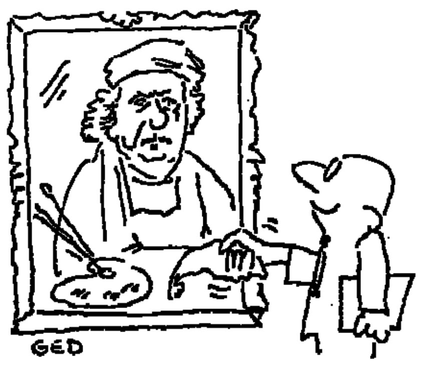
The open house was relatively effective when there was the possibility of a newly art-liberated young businessman entering with credit card at the ready, but the economic downturn, coupled with a new discernment on the part of buyers, could be turning it into an uncomfortable zoo.

S.J.C

Review

● **On Track:** Managers of the British Rail Pension Fund successfully tested the Old Master drawings market when they offered lesser works from their collection at Sotheby's New York, leading to speculation that the important works will follow. The 19 drawings totalled $537,350 (£282,073), with 22 per cent unsold. Top lot was a *Design for a Wall Decoration* by the 16th century artist Piero Buonacorsi, which sold within estimate for £54,855. Top price was £132,808 for the languorous *Head of a Reclining Woman* by Jean-Baptiste Greuze, which doubled its upper estimate, selling to a private collector. A study of a young woman and two dashing huntsmen by Jean-Antoine Watteau stole first prize at Christie's equivalent sale, selling for £108,854.

● **Lost bait:** "Angling in Art" had mixed fortunes at Bonhams, where 34 per cent went unsold. Top price was £4,180 (within estimate) for a tasteful still life by H.L. Rolfe, of dead salmon nestling beneath bracken, while seven tench, mounted in a bow-fronted case inscribed "taken by James Bendall, at Elstree Reservoir, August 1874", fetched £3,740 against an estimate of £4,000 to £6,000.



Preview

● **Today:** Chance to visit artists participating in the Whitechapel Open exhibition in their studios, from today until Monday at the Bombay Wharf, Delfina Studios, Maryland Studios, Orsman Road and Ravenscroft Studios. Contact the Whitechapel (see below) for addresses and details of next weekend's openings. The London Original Print Fair continues until Monday at Burlington House, 11am-6pm each day, with offerings ranging from a Rembrandt etching of *Saint Francis Beneath a Tree Praying* at E.&R. Kistner's stand to 18th century caricatures of dandies at Andrew Edmunds's stand. The London Ceramics Fair is at the Cumberland Hotel, Marble Arch, today and tomorrow, 11am-5pm.

Tuesday: Bonhams is beavering away with silver and silver-plate at 11am, but its main sale is devoted to doggy pictures at 6pm. Christie's will have its canine picture sale at 11am. For those with less animal enthusiasm, There are paintings and watercolours for the most part with other subject matter at Sotheby's Sussex, including a 1917 Stanhope Forbes of a Cornish lane (up to £9,000).

Wednesday: A mixed sale of paintings and drawings at Bearne's, Torquay, includes a good, unfinished watercolour sketch of the Matterhorn by Ruskin (up to £3,000), and a very free landscape of watermeadows by Munnings – without horses (up to £15,000).

Thursday: Furniture, silver, jewels and pictures, also Dinky, and Hornby Dublo train sets, will be offered by Kingsford Auctions at Langham, Essex.

● *Whitechapel Art Gallery, Whitechapel High Street, London E1 (071-377 0107). Bonhams, Montpelier Street, SW7 (071-584 9161). Christie's King Street, St James's, SW1 (071-839 9060). Sotheby's Sussex, Billinghurst (0403 783933). Bearne's, Rainbow, Torquay (0803 296277). Kingsford Auctions, Langham Centre, School Road, Langham, Essex (0206 44858).*

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DUKE OF YORKS BO & cc 836 5122 cc 836 9837 cc 836 3464/379 4444/793 1000 COMEDY OF THE YEAR Olivier Awards 1988 ELIZABETH ESTENSEN in WILLY RUSSELL'S "GEM" SHIRLEY VALENTINE Eves 8 Mats Thu 3, Sat 5 "The audience roars approval. Shirley's spell is unbreakable" Mail "Funniest play for years" D.Mir

FORTUNE Box Office & cc 071 836 2238 24hr cc bkg fee 071 497 9977 (24hr) 071 793 1000 Susan Hill's THE WOMAN IN BLACK Adapted by Stephen Mallatratt "A BRILLIANTLY EFFECTIVE SPINE CHILLER" Guardian "MASTERLY" Exp CHILLING" Ind "Take Tranquillisers" T Out "HOORAY FOR HORROR" D Mail NOW BOOKING TO MAY '91

GARRICK BO & CC 071 379 6107 cc 379 4444 (no bkg fee) 240 7200/793 1000 (bkg fee) Grps 930 6123 THE REHEARSAL by JEAN ANOUILH "A VERY HOT TICKET" T Out Eves 7.45 Sat 4 & 8 Mat Tue 3

GLOBE THEATRE BO (CC) 071-437 3667 BEST COMEDY OF THE YEAR Evening Standard Drama Award NIGEL PLANER GARETH HUNT in ALAN AYCKBOURN'S MAN OF THE MOMENT Evenings 7.45, Sats 5 & 8.30 LAST WEEK ENDS SAT

GREENWICH THEATRE 081 858 7755 Evgs 7.45. Sat Mats 2.30 Patrick Hamilton's Victorian Thriller GASLIGHT "Packed With Melodrama... A Good Scary evening" Times.

HAYMARKET THEATRE ROYAL B.O. 071 930 8800 NO FEE SILLY COW by BEN ELTON STARRING DAWN FRENCH MON-THUR EVEN 8.00pm FRI and SAT EVEN 8.45pm MATS FRI and SAT 6.00pm

HAYMARKET THEATRE ROYAL BO 071 930 8800 or 24hr hotline 071 379 4444 (bkg fee) 071 497 9977 (bkg fee) 071 793 1000 (bkg fee) JOHN GORDON-SINCLAIR & JIM CARTER are "GASPING" by BEN ELTON Directed by Bob Spiers "Breathtakingly Funny" I on Sun "Sublime" FT MON - THURS EVES 8pm FRI EVE 8.30 pm SAT 5pm & 8.30pm Box Office Now Open Must close 16th Feb 1991

HER MAJESTY'S Enquiries 0836 430921 071 839 2244 24hr CC 379 4444(bkg fee) 497 9977 (bkg fee) Group Sales 930 6123 ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S AWARD WINNING MUSICAL THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA DAVE WILLETTS JILL WASHINGTON MICHAEL CORMICK Irén Bartok plays Christine at certain performances Directed by HAROLD PRINCE Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3 SOLD OUT UNTIL SEPT 28 1991 40-60 RETURNS SOLD EACH PERF: QUEUE DAILY

LONDON PALLADIUM BO & CC 071 437 7373 071 437 2055 CC 24hrs 071 497 9977 (no bkg fee) 071 793 1000 071 379 4444 (bkg fee) Groups 071 240 7941 RUSS ABBOT'S PALLADIUM MAD HOUSE The New All laughter Spectacular with Bella Emberg, Lisa Maxwell and Company Evgs 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 2.30. FOR A LIMITED SEASON ONLY

LYRIC HAMMERSMITH 081 741 2311 (cc no bkg fee 071 836 3464) Vanessa Ford's THE HORSE AND HIS BOY by C. S. Lewis 3 & 6.30pm. STUDIO 081 741 8701 Tomorr HELOISE & ABELARD by Hugh Carr 4.30 & 8pm

LYRIC, Shafts Ave 071 437 3686 cc 24hrs (no bkg fee) 379 4444 "SONG & DANCE DYNAMITE" Daily Mail FIVE GUYS NAMED MOE "A JOYOUS WALLOPING HIT" Guardian "The joint never stops jumpin" Time Out (Mon-Fri 8.00 Sat at 6.00 & 8.45)

NATIONAL THEATRE BO 071 928 2252; Grps 071 620 0741 24 hr cc bkg fee: 071 497 9977 OLIVIER Today 2.00 & 7.15 Mon 7.15 THE CRUCIBLE Miller LYTTELTON Today 1.00 Mon 7.00 KING LEAR Shakespeare Ton't 7.00 RICHARD III Shakespeare COTTESLOE Today 2.30 & 7.30 THE SHAPE OF THE TABLE Edgar Mon 7.30 ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF AN ANARCHIST Fo

NEW LONDON Drury Lane WC2 BO 071 405 0072 CC 404 4079 Grps 405 1567 (All above tel numbers avail from 9am) All Hrs 379 4444 Tkts from W H Smith Travel Branches (Grp bkg) 930 6123 THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER /T.S. ELIOT INTERNATIONAL AWARD WINNING MUSICAL CATS Eves 7.45 Tue & Sat 3.00 & 7.45 LATECOMERS NOT ADMITTED WHILE AUDITORIUM IS IN MOTION. PLEASE BE PROMPT. Bars open at 6.45 NOW BOOKING THRU OCT 91 SEATS NOW AVAIL

OLD VIC Box Office & CC 071 928 7616 CC (bkg fee) 240 7200/379 4444/793 1000 Grps 930 6123 Mon-Fri 7.30. Wed mat 2.30. Sat 4.00 & 7.45 JOAN PLOWRIGHT "A great actress at the very peak of her powers" Sun Exp. in TIME & THE CONWAYS Directed by Robin Oliver "DESERVES TO BE A SELL-OUT" Daily Express

PALACE THEATRE 071 434 0909 24hrs cc 379 4444 (bkg fee) 497 9977 (bkg fee) Group Sales 930 6123 Groups 494 1671 THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR MUSICAL LES MISERABLES THE MUSICAL SENSATION Eves 7.30 Mats Thu & Sat 2.30 Latecomers not admitted until the interval NOW BOOKING THRU SEPT 91 APPLY TO BOX OFFICE DAILY FOR RETURNS

PHOENIX BO 071 867 1044 cc (no bkg fee) 867 1111/379 4444 cc (bkg fee) 071 793 1000/071 497 9977 GRPS 240 7941 BEST MUSICAL 1990 EVENING STD AWARDS JULIA McKENZIE SHEILA STAUNTON PATSY ROWLANDS CLIVE CARTER & NICHOLAS PARSONS in The Sondheim/Lapine Musical INTO THE WOODS "A SMASH HIT-BEG FOR TICKETS" People Eves 7.30 Mats Thurs & Sat 2.30

PICCADILLY 071 867 1118 cc no bkg fee 867 1111/071 793 1000 071 379 4444 (24hrs)/bkg fee: 071 497 9977 (24hrs) RICHARD O'BRIEN'S CLASSIC MUSICAL THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW Directed by Robin Lefevre "MAD BAD FUN" D Mirror Mon-Thur 8 Fri & Sat 7 & 9.15 Perf 1hr 30

PLAYHOUSE BO & cc 071 839 4401 cc First Call 24hr 836 3464 (no bkg fee) Eves 7.30 Mats Thurs/Sat 2.30 CAPTAIN BEAKY & HIS BAND in HEAVEN'S UP "FUNNY & TOUCHING" FT "HEAVENLY FUN" People Starring PATRICK CARGILL JACK WILD MIKE BERRY Special Holiday Prices Child £5 Adults From £10 MUST END TODAY WINE & DINE AT SHAWS in the MI GROUP PLAYHOUSE

PRINCE EDWARD 071 734 8951 First Call 24 hr 836 3464 Ticketmaster 379 4444 K Prowse 071-793 1000 (bkg fee) Grps 240 7941/930 6123 Mon-Sat 7.45 Mats Thu & Sat 2.50 CHILDREN OF EDEN "EXPLODES ONTO THE STAGE... A RIOT OF COLOUR, ENERGY AND PURE JOY" Today by John Caird Stephen Schwartz

PRINCE OF WALES BO 071 839 5972 CC First Call 24hr 7 Day 836 3464 (bkg fee) TM 24hr 379 6131 (bkg fee) 793 1000 Grps 930 6123 ASPECTS OF LOVE "ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S BEST" D.Tel Lyrics by DON BLACK & CHARLES HART Directed by TREVOR NUNN Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3.0 Queue daily for returns. Strictly no admittance for latecomers NOW BOOKING TO OCTOBER '91 100 SEATS AVAIL FOR WED MAT ON THE DAY AT THE B. OFFICE

QUEENS Shaftesbury Ave 071 734 1166 cc 071 793 1000 071 497 9977 071 379 4444 (bkg fee) VANESSA REDGRAVE LYNN REDGRAVE JEMMA REDGRAVE and STUART WILSON THREE SISTERS "Riveting, Funny, Unbearably Sad" Obs "Breathtaking" D Mail Directed by ROBERT STURUA Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 2.30

ROYAL COURT Upstairs 071 730 1745 CC 071 836 2428 ALL THINGS NICE by Sharman Macdonald. Evgs 8.00 UPSTAIRS 071 730 2554 from Mon THE FEVER by Wallace Shawn. Evgs 7.30

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY STRATFORD UPON AVON (0789 295623 cc Mon - Sat 9am - 8pm) ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE RICHARD II Today 1.30 LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST Ton't 7.30 THE SWAN: THE SEAGULL Today 1.30 TWO SHAKESPEAREAN ACTORS Ton't 7.30 Meal/Ticket/Hotel package 0789 414999. RSC's 24hr cc box office (bkg fee) 071 497 9977.

SADLER'S WELLS 071 278 8916 SUSAN HAMPSHIRE KOSHIRO MATSUMOTO IX in Rodgers & Hammerstein's THE KING AND I Perfs from 6 Feb. Eves 7.30. Wed & Sat mats 2.30. 12 Feb at 7pm. GROUP SALES 071 930 6123 cc (no bkg fee) 071 793 1000/379 4444/240 7200

SADLER'S WELLS 071 278 8916 First Call 24hrs 7 days 240 7200 The National Youth Music Theatre in OLIVER! Tues to Sat 7.30, Wed mats 2pm, Sat mats 2.30 & Sun mats (20.27 Jan, 3 Feb) 4pm

SHAFTESBURY BO. 071 379 5399 (cc No Bkg Fee 071 379 4444/071-793 1000) (071-497 9977 Bkg Fee) Grps 930 6123 Theatre of Comedy Company DONALD SINDEN MICHAEL WILLIAMS "A DELICIOUSLY INSPIRED PARTNERSHIP" Observer in RAY COONEY'S "HUGELY FUNNY" D. Tel OUT OF ORDER "A BUOYANTLY FUNNY EVENING" Guardian Evgs 8.0 Mat Wed 2.30 Saturdays 5.30 & 8.30

ST MARTIN'S 071-836 1443 Special CC No. 379 4444 Evgs 8.0 Tues 2.45, Sat 5.0 and 8.0 39TH YEAR OF AGATHA CHRISTIE'S THE MOUSETRAP

STRAND BO & CC 071 240 0300 CC (Bkg Fees) 071 497 9977/071 379 4444/071 793 1000 DAVE ALLEN "A phenomenon deserving to be cherished" S.Express 12 FEB - 23 MARCH ONLY

STRAND 071 240 0300 cc 071 379 4444 071 793 1000 (No Bkg fee) 071 497 9977 (bkg fee) Groups 071 930 6123. MARTI CAINE DEREK GRIFFITHS & Louise English in SNOW WHITE and the SEVEN DWARFS Twice daily 2.30 & 7.30 (except certain perfs.) Suns Jan 13 & 20 at 4.00 UNTIL SUN JAN 26 ONLY

VAUDEVILLE BO & CC 071 836 9987 cc 071 793 1000 (no fee) & 24 hr cc 836 2428 / 379 4444 (bkg fee) Mon-Fri Eves 7.45 Mats Wed 3.0 Sats 5.0 & 8.30 HANNAH GORDON PETER BARKWORTH KEVIN McNALLY in HIDDEN LAUGHTER "SIMON GRAY'S BEST PLAY FOR YEARS" D Telegraph "SUPERBLY WRITTEN" STimes

VICTORIA PALACE 071-834 1317 CC 071-379 4444/240 7200/071 793 1000 (bkg fee) Groups 071 930 6123 BUDDY "We're Buddy brilliant" Sun "Sheer unadulterated fun ... I love this show" Sun Exp. BUDDY NOW IN IT'S 2ND SENSATIONAL YEAR "Wonderful Stuff" Sun Tel. "I Loved It" Fin Times BUDDY The Buddy Holly Story Mon-Thurs 8.00 Fri 5.30 Sat 5.30 & 8.30 ALL SEATS ½ PRICE FRIDAYS 5.30 PERF NOW BOOKING TO MAY 1991

WHITEHALL BO & cc (no fee) 867 1119 cc 867 1111/379 4444 (no fee) 497 9977/793 1000 ALAN AYCKBOURN'S ACHINGLY FUNNY Tms ABSURD PERSON SINGULAR "Leaves the viewer weak with laughter and admiration" D Tel "I CHALLENGE ANYONE NOT TO LAUGH OUT LOUD" Today Eves 8 Mats Thurs & Sat at 4.30

WYNDHAMS 071-867 1116 CC 071 379 4444/793 1000 (No Fee) & 24 hr CC 836 2428 (Bkg Fee) SHEILA GISH CLIVE FRANCIS JOSEPH MAHER in WHAT THE BUTLER SAW by JOE ORTON "GLORIOUSLY FUNNY" D. Tel Opens 22 Jan. Mon - Thur at 8.00 Fri & Sats at 6.00 & 8.00

WYNDHAMS 071-867 1116 cc 071 867 1111/071 379 4444 (no bkg fee) 071 497 9977/071 793 1000 (bkg fee) Eves 8pm Mats Thurs 3 Sat 4 ALAN HOWARD PENNY DOWNIE in INGMAR BERGMAN'S SCENES FROM A MARRIAGE Closes Sat 19 Jan LAST TWO WEEKS

THE SOUTH BANK CENTRE

TEL/CC 071-928 8800 FIRST CALL 071-240 7200 Bkg fee

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

Tue 15 Jan 7.30 **ACADEMY OF ST. MARTIN IN THE FIELDS** Sir Neville Marriner (cond) Dmitry Sitkovetsky (vln) Cherubini Overture Anacreon, Beethoven Violin Concerto, Dvorak Symphony No 7 £18 £15 £12 £9 £8 (ONLY) Academy Concerts Society

Wed 16 Jan 7.30 **DAME GWYNETH JONES WITH THE YMSO** James Blair (cond) prog incl Wagner Prelude & Liebestod (Tristan & Isolde) Preludes from Acts I of Die Meistersinger & Lohengrin, Brunnhilde's Immolation (Gotterdammerung) £15, £12 £10 £8.50 £7.50 £5 YMSO

Thu 17 Jan 7.30 **THE LONDON PHILHARMONIC** Bryden Thomson (cond) Raphael Wallfisch (cel) NatWest Classics for Pleasure Series. Elgar Ovt. Cockaigne; Walton Cello Concerto; Holst The Planets RETURNS ONLY London Philharmonic Enterprises

Fri 18 Jan 7.30 **BOURNEMOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** Andrew Litton (cond) Jon Kimura Parker (pno) Kabalevsky Ovt. Colas Breugnon; Prokofiev Piano Concerto No. 3, Tchaikovsky Manfred Symphony. £15 £12.50 £10, £7.50, £4 Western Orchestral Society

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

Sat 12 & Mon 14 Jan 6.00 **THE RING SAGA.** Part 1 Alberich's Curse (12 Jan) Part II Brynhilde's Awakening (14 Jan) City of Birmingham Touring Opera in Graham Vick & Jonathan Dove's 2-part adaptation of Wagner's tetralogy. Parts I & II RETURNS ONLY South Bank Centre

Sun 13 Jan 7.45 **DMITRI BASHKIROV** (piano) International Piano Series. Schubert Impromptu No 1 in C minor, D 899 Schubert/Liszt Ten Paraphrases of songs, Debussy 4 Preludes (Book 1), L'isle joyeuse, Prokofiev Sonata No 4. £10, £8, £6.50, £5 Harold Holt Ltd/SBC

Tue 15 Jan 7.30 **HANDEL: MESSIAH** London Orpheus Orchestra and Choir. James Gaddarn (cond) Jacquelyn Fugelle, Paul Kusel, Anthony Rolfe Johnson, Peter Savidge, Leslie Pearson (hrpschd) John Birch (org) Handel Messiah (ed Basil Lam). £12 £11 £10, £8 (ONLY) LOO

Thu 17 Jan 7.45 **PIANO CIRCUS & GRAHAM FITKIN** Seven Grand Pianos on the QEH platform! One of the most exciting & dynamic new music groups. Prog incl Steve Reich Six Pianos; Graham Fitkin LOUD £12 £11 £10, £9 £7 £5 Another Complete Fabrication

Fri 18 & Sat 19 Jan 7.45 **TAG TEATRO - FROM VENICE** presents Scaramuccia, the soldier of fortune, half gentleman, half bandit, in a swashbuckling Commedia scenario full of action, colour, music, song, duels & brilliant slapstick spectacle. £10, £8, £6 London Mime Festival/SBC

Royal Philharmonic Orchestra
ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
FRIDAY 25 JANUARY 7.30 pm

VLADIMIR ASHKENAZY

conducts

Dvorák .... Overture, Carnival
Tchaikovsky .... Violin Concerto
Dvorák .... Symphony No. 8

Soloist LUIGI ALBERTO BIANCHI
Sponsored by Candle Service Ltd
Tickets: £5 - £25 Tel: 071-928 8800

TOMORROW 13 JANUARY 7.45 pm
QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL
International Piano Series

DMITRI BASHKIROV

SCHUBERT .... Impromptu No. 1 in C minor, D.899
SCHUBERT/LISZT .... Ten Paraphrases of songs
DEBUSSY .... 4 Preludes (Book 1); L'isle joyeuse
PROKOFIEV .... Sonata No. 4

£10, £8, £6.50, £5 Box Office/CC 071-928 8800
Harold Holt Ltd in association with the South Bank Centre

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL WED. 23 JAN. at 7.45pm

Monteverdi Choir
English Baroque Soloists

JOHN ELIOT GARDINER MOZART

Ov. to Die Zauberflöte · Sym. No. 34 in C K.338
Mass in C minor K.427 "Great"

SYLVIA McNAIR soprano
CHARLOTTE MARG[illegible] soprano
ANTHONY RO[illegible] tenor
COR[illegible]MANN bass
Sponso[illegible] Communication Corporation plc
£22.50, £18[illegible].50, £10 50, £6.50 Box Office/CC 071-928 8800

SOLD OUT

ROYAL ALBERT HALL SUNDAY 20 JANUARY at 7.30pm

Handel MESSIAH

Malcolm Sargent Festival Choir — 600 voices

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JOHN MARK AINSLEY STEPHEN ROBERTS
JOHN BIRCH organ
NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Conductor CHARLES FARNCOMBE
£5, £7.50, £8.50, £9, £11, £15 Ticket Shop 071-589 8212
& from 14 Abingdon Road, W8 071-937 4547
Proceeds to go to the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children

ROYAL ALBERT HALL SATURDAY 2 FEB at 7.30 pm

THE BACH CHOIR ALL-BRAHMS CONCERT

St Antoni Variations
Alto Rhapsody
Ein Deutsches Requiem
JANE EAGLEN, CATHERINE WYN-ROGERS, ALAN OPIE
THE PHILHARMONIA
SIR DAVID WILLCOCKS conductor
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City of Westminster WIGMORE HALL

36 Wigmore Street London W1H 9DF
Director William Lyne MBE Box office 071 935 2141 Mailing list £4

6-12 January **MOZART BICENTENARY FESTIVAL.** Gyorgy Pauk artistic director. Sponsored by Greycoat PLC/Hiroyuki Shimada/J & A Beare Ltd

Saturday 12 January 7.30 pm **ARLEEN AUGER** soprano **GYORGY PAUK** violin, viola. **RALF GOTHONI** piano. **TAKACS QUARTET.** Mozart: 3 Songs. Violin Sonata in G K301. Arias from 'Le Nozze di Figaro', 'Il Re Pastore' & 'Idomeneo'. String Quintet in C K515 ALL SEATS SOLD (returns only) HoM

Sunday 13 January NBstarting time: 4 pm **ANNE SOFIE VON OTTER** mezzo soprano **OLAF BAER** baritone **GEOFFREY PARSONS** piano Song Recital Series. Concert Cancelled. Ticket money refunded on receipt of tickets

Monday 14 January 7.30 pm **TASMIN LITTLE** violin **PIERS LANE** piano Brahms: Scherzo from F A E Sonata (1843) Schubert: Sonata in D D384 Bach: Partita No 2 in D minor BWV1004, Rostic Fantasy Duo (1st perf) Respighi: Sonata in B minor (1917). £8, £7, £6 £5 Redcliffe Concerts

Tuesday 15 January 7.30 pm **FRETWORK** viols **CATHERINE BOTT/JOHN POTTER & RICHARD WISTREICH** voices **PAUL NICHOLSON** organ & **NIGEL NORTH** archlute EM & Baroque Series. 'A Magnificent Consort'. Locke: Vocal & instrumental works. Purcell: Fantasias & scene. In guilty night £8 £7 £6 £5 Robert White Mgt

Wednesday 16 January 7.30 pm **ACADEMY OF ST MARTIN IN THE FIELDS CELLO ENSEMBLE/ ALISON HARGAN** sop J A Ellis Double Concerto after Vivaldi D Popper: Requiem B Guy: LOOK UP! (1st perf), Villa-Lobos: Bachianas Brasileiras Nos 1 & 5, Mozart: Adagio & Allegro (arr) Gershwin: Songs £9 £7.50 £6 £4.50 Mgt Take a Note

Thursday 17 January 7.30 pm **MEDICI QUARTET & Friends: JACK BRYMER** clar **MORAY WELSH** cello **MICHAEL COOKSON** via **JOHN LILL** piano **JOHN WILLIAMS** guitar **MARTIN JONES** piano 20th Birthday Concert: inc Beethoven, Mozart, Strauss, Schubert, Boccherini & World prem. of new work by Wilfred Josephs. £10 £8 £6 £5 Lies Askonas Ltd

Friday 18 January 7.30 pm **ADRIAN THOMPSON** tenor **IAIN BURNSIDE** piano. Beethoven: 5 Lieder Mendelssohn: 5 Lieder Liszt: 3 Petrarch Sonnets. Britten: Winter Words. Ginastera: 5 Canciones populares Argentinas £9.00 £7.50, £6.00, £4.50 Mgt Ron Gonsalves

Saturday 19 January 7.30 pm **NASH ENSEMBLE** Ian Brown piano Philippa Davies flute, Marcia Crayford violin Christopher van Kampen cello. Janacek/Brahms Series. Martinu: Trio for flute cello piano Mendelssohn: Piano Trio in D minor Op 49 Janacek: Dumka, Fairy Tale. Brahms: Piano Trio in C Op. 87 £8 £7 £6 £5

Sunday 20 January 11.30 am **ENDELLION QUARTET** Sunday Morning Coffee Concert. Mozart: String Quartet in D K499 'Hoffmeister' Brahms: Quartet in C minor Op 51 No 1 £5 including programme & coffee sherry juice

Sunday 20 January NBstarting time: 4 pm **LESLIE HOWARD** piano Haydn: 4 Sonatas HXVI/24, 23, 40, 37 Rakhmaninov: 4 Etudes-tableaux; Preludes from Op 23 & 32. Elégie No 1, Lilacs, Nocturne Op. 10/1 Daisies, Morceau musical Op. 16-3 Polka de W.R. £10.00, £8.50 £7.00 £5.50 Jane Gray

Monday 21 January 7.30 pm **STEPHEN SALKELD** piano Schubert: Fantasia in C D760 'Wanderer' Liszt-Busoni: 6 Grandes Etudes after Paganini. Mussorgsky: Pictures at an Exhibition (1874) £7 £6 £5 £4 Management Lisa Peacock

Tuesday 22 January 7.30 pm **THE ACADEMY OF ANCIENT MUSIC. STANLEY RITCHIE** violin director. Vivaldi 250th Anniversary Concert. Vivaldi: Sinfonia in B flat Concerto for 2 violins & cello Op 3 No 11 from 'L'Estro Armonico' Il Grosso Mogul, The Four Seasons £12, £10, £8 (all others sold)

Wednesday 23 January 7.30 pm **FELICITY LOTT** soprano. **GRAHAM JOHNSON** piano. Song Recital Series. Songs by Richard Strauss. ALL SEATS SOLD (returns only) HoM

Thursday 24 January 7.30 pm **MUSICAL OFFERING** R Brown II P Nobes vln J Price cello D. Francis hpd EM & Bar Series. Avec Privilege du Roy, music in 18th C Paris F. Couperin: La Piemontaise Rameau: Pièces de clavecin en concert. Telemann: Paris Quartet. Music by Geminiani, Hotteterre; Leclair. £8 £7 £6 £5 Early Music Network

Friday 25 January 7.30 pm **THE KING'S CONSORT.** Robert King dir Gillian Fisher sop Paul Goodwin oboe Crispian Steele-Perkins tpt. Handel: 'Mr Handel's Water Pieces' Oboe concertos in G min D F Purcell: Trumpet Suite from 'The Indian Queen' JS Bach: Wedding Cantata 'Weichet nur' Cantata 51 Jauchzet Gott £9, £7.50, £6, £4.50

WIGMORE HALL SUN. AFTERNOON 27 JAN. at 4 pm
Harold Holt Ltd presents

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WIGMORE HALL

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1 Feb.	**BORIS BERESOVSKY** 1st Prize Tchaikovsky Competition 1990, Moscow
9 Feb.	**PIOTR ANDERSZEWSKI** Sensational 21-year-old Polish pianist from Leeds International Piano Competition 1990
17 Feb.	**ALFRED BRENDEL** Mozart Bicentenary Concert
26, 28 Feb.	**TATYANA NIKOLAEVA** Shostakovich Preludes and Fugues
19, 22, 27, 30 March	**WALTER KLIEN** Mozart Series

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LUNCHTIME MUSIC IN THE CITY

BISHOPSGATE HALL, 230 Bishopsgate, London EC2
Tuesday 1.05 pm Admission (including programme) £2.50

15 Jan — KONTRA STRING QUARTET. Mendelssohn Four Pieces Op. 81 Neilsen Quartet in F min Op. 44.
22 Jan — ANTONY PEEBLES piano. Ravel Miroirs George Benjamin Sortilèges Debussy Images Series 2
29 Jan — BORANTE PIANO TRIO with DUNCAN PRESCOTT clarinet. Messiaen Quatuor pour la fin du temps.
5 Feb — GERARD McCHRYSTAL sax KATHRYN LENEHAN pno. Ida Gotkovsky, JS Bach, Paul Bonneau, Dale Heath, Phil Woods
12 Feb — MARIOS PAPADOPOULOS piano. Constandinides 8 dances from Greek Islands Mussorgsky Pictures at an Exhibition.
19 Feb — BERNARD ROBERTS PIANO TRIO. Beethoven Piano Trio in G Op. 121 (Kakadu Variations) Brahms Piano Trio in B Op. 8.
26 Feb — THE GRIEG TRIO. Shostakovich Piano Trio No. 1 in C min Op. 8 Mendelssohn Piano Trio in C min Op. 66.

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TUESDAY 22 JANUARY at 7.45

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Pachelbel CANON
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TUESDAY 19 FEBRUARY at 7.30

HANDEL-BACH MOZART

LONDON FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA
Conductor: *ROSS POPLE* Piano: *ANDREW HAIGH*
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Handel .... MUSIC FOR THE ROYAL FIREWORKS
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UARY 12 1991

TELEVISION

Owls not what they seem

Lynne Truss reviews the cryptic *Twin Peaks*, *Spender*, and *The Trouble with Agatha Christie*

I am beginning to think I may not possess sufficient mental stamina for **Twin Peaks** (BBC 2). People tell me I take it too seriously ("enjoy it, laugh a little"), but I answer by clipping them around the head with my home-made "who killed Laura Palmer?" file (which is now, I say with pride, nearly two inches thick). People tell me I have missed the point; that the murder investigation in *Twin Peaks* is a mere McGuffin, and that the cryptic dream-world clues are deliberately bogus. I answer by repeating, in a faraway sing-song voice, a litany of this week's gleanings: "the owls are not what they seem," I say wistfully; and "without chemicals, he points". Ultimately, they shake their heads and leave me alone on the park bench, where I resume my conversation with a small wooden duck.

There were too many detectives on television this week, but I could understand why. It was as though a broadcasting prince had pronounced: "Find me an antidote to *Twin Peaks*: something where the clues lead directly to the criminal, and where I don't have to keep revising my opinion of everybody's character" — and umpteen liegemen had scurried off, returning later to dump at his feet their indistinguishable booty. *Palmer, Bergerac, Devices and Desires, Waterfront Beat* and *Over My Dead Body*: that do you, squire? Something for everyone there.

My own hopes were momentarily raised by the idea of **Spender** (BBC 1) — until I discovered that it was not, as I had fondly imagined, about murder among the Auden set of the 1930s. Instead, a world-weary undercover Jimmy Nail reluctantly busts drab crimes on his old home patch of Newcastle, and looks dead miserable about it.

Written by Ian La Frenais (who also co-writes *Lovejoy*), it was generally laconic stuff, and its pervasive mood of not-giving-a-damn extended even to the unapologetic inclusion of hackneyed plot devices. Worth watching again, though — if only for Nail's supremely exaggerated solemnness. It may give some indication of the prevailing dramatic temperature if I say that a guest spot for the now-dead W.H. Auden would liven things up considerably.

The trouble with *Spender* was that the crime he solved was not interesting: it was just something unremarkable about stolen cars. Also, there was little action. Much as I do not generally approve of squeal-crash car chases, I still found it unsatisfying that Spender's idea of danger was to tail a suspect at a moderate speed for a short distance, with his estranged kids sleeping undisturbed in the back of the car. (Detectives' kids always *are* estranged, by the way; just as their glamorous ex-wives are always exasperated by the sight of them.)

The other odd thing about *Spender* was its misplaced joshing about culture clash. Having acquired namby-pamby eating habits in London, Spender prefers nouvelle cuisine and camomile tea to the local kippers and pints. In dramatic terms, this was a mistake for two reasons. First, it meant that the best lines ("You call this lamb pink? *Pink?* A good vet could get this lot back on its feet") went to other people; and second, it made the viewer think that the action had suddenly transferred to London when nobody was looking.

I doubt that Ian La Frenais or Jimmy Nail (who will write future episodes) will really consider introducing W.H. Auden as a character in *Spender*. But he might not be such a useless sidekick as might first appear, since he was responsible for writing one of the best ever essays on crime fiction, in which he said that people who most appreciate the genre (which would include *Twin Peaks* as well as the lacklustre *Spender*) suffer "from a sense of sin".

I kept waiting for somebody to make this point in **The Trouble With Agatha Christie** (LWT), but they never did. A rather stilted studio conversation between Michael Aspel and an audience of well-rehearsed celebrities on the lasting appeal of the Queen of Crime, it was, if anything, conspicuous for *not* raising the point that the detective is the Superego which tracks down and banishes the Id. Alas. It might have explained so much about the trouble with *Twin Peaks* — the quantities of Id running about out of control.

The Trouble With Agatha Christie had, in fact, disappointingly little to say about psychological theories — though a publisher from Harper Collins made the point that recent sales shot up by 40 per cent when a gory set of dust-jackets was replaced by an anodyne comfy one. Not content with such insights, however, the programme attempted to eke out the question and answer format ("Now, you are Agatha Christie's grandson; what do you think she would have made of all this?") with a spot of misjudged malarkey about a murder taking place in the studio. An overhead light crashed down on to David Suchet's seat, just as he got up from it; and Sir Peter Ustinov was revealed, in an attitude of death, by means of a studio monitor.

They might have spared themselves the embarrassment: viewers were, I am sure, quite happy pondering the other mysteries on offer, such as, "How did Lady Antonia Fraser permit herself to be roped in for this?"; "What are Frank Windsor and Susan Penhaligon doing here?"; and "Why do people in an audience always look so shifty when they realise they are on camera?".

The great excitement in watching **Parnell And The Englishwoman** (BBC 2) was in wondering about the wildlife concealed within the many luxuriant beards. In fact, at one point I was sure I spotted two owls and a hen, four larks and a wren (though the owls were probably not what they seemed). Trevor Eve, resigned to the fact that half his face had been suspended from active duty, put a lot of effort into acting through eyes alone — rather successfully. The only problem was that at the end of the episode, viewers had to shake off the sensation that they had been watching him through a letter-box.

The story of Parnell and Mrs O'Shea (Francesca Annis) is a good one for the classic serial treatment. Hugh Leonard's script is a bit too sparing with exposition, but the dialogue has a significant air — and Leonard seems to have avoided punctiliously the nasty casual anachronisms that so often mar this kind of costume drama. Mrs O'Shea does not say, "I have horrendous news for you", for example; and nobody says, "I'm fine, really".

The acting of the two stars is good — and David Robb as the obnoxious Captain O'Shea is excellent — but some of the lesser Home Rulers all but vanish behind their beards and waistcoats. And nobody seems to be bothering much about an Irish accent (the Irish actors least of all), except when the word Eye-er-land prompts them to remember.

Searching for dreamworld clues? Audrey Horne, Agent Dale Cooper's self-appointed co-investigator, in *Twin Peaks*

HENRIETTA BUTLER

Cherie Lunghi, Nicholas Woodeson and Warren Mitchell in *The Homecoming*

Classical Pinter dispassion

THEATRE

The Homecoming
Comedy

TWENTY-FIVE years have passed since Harold Pinter's *Homecoming* had its première in Cardiff. I know because I was there, and well remember scribbling a quick-fire review in a hotel lounge crammed with theatregoers either spluttering, expostulating or too stricken to do much but silently mouth. That did not make life calmer for a cub critic struggling to make instant sense of one of the century's strangest, most fascinating plays. But South Wales's outrage is worth recalling, now that academia has institutionalised *The Homecoming* as that deathly thing, a modern classic.

Thus the task facing Peter Hall, now as then the play's director, is almost more challenging than in 1965. He must switch the electricity back on, and jolt a modern audience into recognising how shocking the play still is. It should not just be an opportunity for the cognoscenti to appreciate charged dialogue, pregnant subtext and other Pinterisms. It is the story of an academic who brings his wife from America to London, only to see her sexually hijacked by his father and brothers and, with her consent, turned into a blend of housekeeper and breadwinner, surrogate mother and professional whore.

Hall undeniably passes the test. True, there are plenty of loaded silences, but there is no doubting the intensity of the emotions embodied in them. What this family is camouflaging, and not always bothering to camouflage, is lust, greed, envy and anger. If the production did not also manage to be gruesomely funny, it would be intolerable. London, let alone Cardiff, should beware.

The family living room, as in 1965 designed by John Bury, consists of drab grey walls and dull brown furniture. Even the lampshade might have been rescued from the ashes of Hiroshima. And then the rancorous exchanges begin. In Warren Mitchell's performance, the paterfamilias Max half-limps, half-scuttles onstage, a bony gnome with sly, squinting eyes and a malevolent grin. Before long, he is barking out resentments that embrace his own increasing age and fading virility, his dead wife, his conventional brother, and his younger sons.

One of these is the pimp Lenny, in Nicholas Woodeson's performance a sly, mocking predator, and the other the aspiring boxer Joey, played by Douglas McFerran as a simpleton most articulate when he is staring at his father with helpless hatred or at his sister-in-law with yearning. This is the all-male household to which the eldest brother, Teddy, ends by presenting his compliant wife, Ruth.

Here is the play's central problem. Why does this classy couple behave so weirdly? In the first production, Vivien Merchant's Ruth exuded slinky sexuality and *nostalgie de la boue*. Cherie Lunghi, her pale, drawn successor, prefers to emphasise the strain of being a good wife and mother on an arid American campus, and the relief of being somewhere where she can exercise emotional power, not play games of intellectual let's-pretend. Given her determination, it is not surprising that Greg Hicks's Teddy, always insecure behind the professorial suavity, himself finds a relief in surrender.

So why does the play maintain its hold? Surely because it utterly demystifies the family. God knows what formative brutalities have happened in the past; but what is left here is a herd of human animals, loveless yet frighteningly close, whose joint needs override those of any one member. Who but Pinter could bring such zoological dispassion to the recording of its internal battles for dominance and sex, its power to absorb, overwhelm and destroy?

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Golden egg on the scales of fringe

THEATRE

Surprised by Love
Duke of Cambridge

THIS 1722 comedy by Marivaux was reportedly one of the author's own favourites. It seems extraordinary that the London premiere of *La Surprise de l'Amour* should wait until 1991, given by a young company called The Troupe in a pub theatre in Kentish Town — pre-empted by performances in Edinburgh.

Despite Voltaire's jeer that Marivaux weighed butterfly's eggs in scales of cobweb, the piece emerges as small, compact and more robust than many of his exquisite but verbose arabesques on love, misunderstanding and pride. Astrid Hilne's English version is natural, literate and free of translatorese; while her production sets the action vaguely in our own time to the strains of "Let's Do It" and "Stormy Weather".

The plot is Marivaux's usual fencing match between two people who refuse to acknowledge love but are finally talked into it after cross purposes, soul searching and much Gallic garrulity: the ancestors of the talkative trendies in Eric Rohmer's filmed *Contes Moraux*.

After unhappy love affairs both Lélio and his servant abjure women; here they resemble the young men in *French Without Tears*. They are excellently played by Michael Charlesworth, with the right blend of discipline and relaxed naturalism, and Robin Cameron, a Scottish harlequin with checks and tartan scarf in place of the traditional diamond-patterned suit.

Inevitably both master and man are drawn to the neighbouring (man-hating) countess and her maid. The heart of the play is a duet between Lélio and the countess, a set of variations on attraction and retreat, pride and pique; a series of gentle probings, attacks and withdrawals, bluff, double bluff and self deception, until, like Beatrice and Benedick, they are virtually tricked into union by their servants.

The performances are crisper and more stylish than usually found on the fringe. Lilian Evans steers clear of soubrette mannerisms as the maid Columbine, and Harriet Keevil's countess is first rate — intelligent, puzzled, but finally convincing in reluctant affection. The set, a ruined ivy-clad wall and doorway, echoes the spare elegance of the production which is due to tour Britain in the spring.

MARTIN HOYLE

Julian Forsyth as Fagan

MUSICAL

Oliver!
Sadler's Wells

WITHIN five years of his greatest hit, Lionel Bart's final stage work *Twang!!!* foundered with all hands despite its defensive bristle of exclamation marks. *Oliver!* remains a marvel for its time (1960), each song almost insolently apt in style, mood and characterisation.

Here are belting ballads, haunting street cries, Fagin's mid-European exoticism ("I'm Reviewing the Situation" anticipates the soliloquies in *Fiddler on the Roof*) and above all the rumbustious euphoria of such company numbers as "Consider Yourself" and "I'd Do Anything". All avoid the formulaic by the sheer vitality of their tunes; the unmistakable knees-up quality of the score's best moments make *Oliver!* the last great English musical.

National Youth Music Theatre specialises in excellent productions of original works (*The Ragged Child* was particularly memorable), but Bart's Dickensian romp is heaven-sent for a company aged between 10 and 19. The token adult roles number no more than half a dozen; for the rest, choreographer Stuart Hopps, experienced with the infant animals and insects of Covent Garden's *Cunning Little Vixen*, and director Jeremy James Taylor produce a cheerful and polished performance from the young cast, including such accomplished cameos as Richard Johnson's spindly undertaker.

Two adults are press-ganged from the world of opera. Showing sound artistic judgement, Philip Doghan relishes Mr Bumble more than he did Aribert Reimann's *Ghost Sonata*. As Widow Corney, Nuala Willis displays alarming gear changes between baritonal chest register and squawky top. Sara Weymouth's Nancy throbs out "As Long as He Needs Me", though the music-hall rollicking of "Oom-pah-pah" finds her breathless. As Bill Sikes who, like the Mikado, has to whip up menace after an appearance only in Act II, Billy Hartman is young, firm-voiced and brutal. For once Nancy's attraction to the bully seems plausible.

Julian Forsyth's Fagin is also younger and more personable than usual — despite a visual hint of Henry Irving as Shylock. As for the boys, Marcel Bruneau's Oliver is assured rather than pathetic — though he reminds us how hard it is to sing "Where Is Love?". Besides, it is the fate of Oliver to be upstaged by the Artful Dodger. Irfan Ahmad's tremendous Dodger is one of the best: all flashing eyes, swagger and vivacity.

Jason Denvir's set begins, alarmingly, with arches that recall Covent Garden's "time tunnel" *Ring*, but the central bridge linking two staircases makes an ingeniously flexible background. Excellent choral singing and decent playing from the Wren Orchestra reflect credit on music director Stuart Hutchinson.

MARTIN HOYLE

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THE SUNDAY TIMES
❛The Kennel Club was described by an ex-employee at Crufts as: "More exclusive than the Jockey Club and slightly to the right of the MCC," which would probably be taken as a compliment by most members.❜
Canine snobbery, in The Sunday Times tomorrow.

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BBC 1

7.00 Touché Turtle. Musketeering cartoon tales (r) 7.05 Wizbit with Paul Daniels (r) 7.30 Babar. Animated version of the classic children's story

7.55 Eggs 'n Baker Cheryl Baker presents her cookery and pop show. She visits an east end of London eel and pie shop, where she worked as a girl, and explores an Anglo-Saxon settlement. With music from CandyFlip and A Tribe Called Quest 8.35 Bravestarr. Sci-fi western cartoon (r)

9.00 Going Live! Sarah Greene and Phillip Schofield present the children's magazine. Guests include fashion expert Jeff Banks, *Neighbours* star Mark Stevens and *Hartbeat's* Tony Hart, who offers ideas for things to make. There are cartoon adventures with the *Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles* and the *Raccoons*, as well as music, competitions and comedy with Trevor and Simon. 12.12 Weather

12.15 Grandstand introduced by Desmond Lynam. The line up is (subject to alteration): 12.20 Swimming: highlights from the world championships in Perth, Western Australia. 12.45, 1.20, and 1.55 Racing from Ascot and, at 1.40, from Leopardstown; 1.00 News; 1.05 Skiing from Kitzbühel; 2.10 Rugby League: live coverage of the final of the Regal Trophy between Bradford Northern and Warrington at Headingley; 3.50 Football half-times; 4.00 Table Tennis: a challenge match between England and France at Sunderland; 4.40 Final Score

5.05 News with Moira Stuart. Weather

5.15 Regional news and sport. Wales: (to 6.05) Wales on Saturday

5.20 The Flying Doctors: Look Up in the Sky. Another adventure for the airborne medics of the outback, as a family ballooning expedition touches down at Coopers Crossing (Ceefax)

6.05 Challenge Anneka. In a programme postponed from last week, the hyperactive Anneka Rice is called upon to tackle the renovation of a Methodist chapel in Telford to provide short-term accommodation for homeless youngsters (Ceefax)

6.55 Allo 'Allo! More dreadful jokes from the comic Resistance as René and Edith try to release Edith's mother Fanny and her new husband, Leclerc, from a secret compartment in the spare bedroom and General Von Flockenstoffen plans to launch a raid to kidnap Churchill (Ceefax)

7.25 The Paul Daniels Magic Show. The cheery master of magic and illusion attempts to perform the trick of passing a camel through the eye of a needle. His guests are the King Charles Troupe, America's basketball-playing unicyclists. (Ceefax)

8.10 Bergerac: The Dark Horse. John Nettles as the Jersey detective is persuaded to return to the Channel Islands by his former father-in-law, Charlie Hungerford (Terence Alexander), who wants him to find a friend's missing wife. Viewers will want something more lively than recent *Bergerac* offerings (Ceefax)

9.00 News with Martyn Lewis. (Ceefax) Sport and weather

Jockeying against a murder conviction: Gary Cole (9.20pm)

9.20 Midnight Caller: A Switch in Time. In the concluding episode of a two-part drama, Gary Cole as the ex-cop turned disc jockey, Jack Killian, is fighting for his life after being accused of a hit-and-run murder. Killian has been charged with the murder of Sarah Carson, whose father, a prominent attorney, is pressing the DA's office for a conviction. Co-starring Wendy Kilbourne and Howard Duff. (Ceefax)

10.10 Film: Sworn To Silence (1987). A made-for-television drama with Peter Coyote as a lawyer given the job of defending a killer who has to search his conscience when the accused gives him damning evidence of his guilt. Thought-provoking tale with solid acting. Dabney Coleman is excellent as Coyote's burned-out colleague, a performance than won him an Emmy. Directed by Peter Levin

11.45 Film: Crimewave (1985). Director Sam Raimi follows *The Evil Dead* with this strange, sometimes barely comprehensible, crime story set in Detroit that is a stylish blend of *film noir* and slapstick comedy. Crush (Paul Smith) and Coddish (Brion James) are two empty-headed hoods who embark on a robbing and murder spree. Their story is told by Vic Ajax (Reed Birney) who awaits execution on Death Row. Also starring Louise Lasser and Sheree J. Wilson. Co-written by the Coen brothers Joel and Ethan who made the acclaimed *Blood Simple* and *Raising Arizona* (Ceefax) 1.10am Weather

BBC 2

9.00 Open University

10.55 Romer's Egypt. John Romer gives his expert view of the ancient civilisation of Egypt (r)

11.35 Made by Man: The Thatcher. The craft of the thatcher (r)

11.50 The Honeymooners (b/w). Classic American comedy with Jackie Gleason as Ralph Kramden and Art Carney as his best friend Ed.

12.15 Film: Clarence, the Cross-Eyed Lion (1965). Marshall Thomas stars as Dr Marsh Tracy, the leader of an African study centre for animal behaviour, in the film which spawned the popular television programme *Daktari*. Dr Tracy has to cope with bringing up his daughter as well as having to protect a group of gorillas from being hunted by a pack of evil mercenaries. Amiable and charming safari adventure. Directed by Andrew Marton

1.45 Animation Now: Snipe, Clam, Grapple. From China

1.55 Under the Sun: Dust and Ashes. An award-winning film which examines the spectacular pilgrimage to Kumbh Mela where, every 12 years, millions of people flock to bathe in the sacred Ganges to cleanse themselves of their sins (r)

2.45 Mahabharat. Episode 33 of the 91-part dramatisation of the epic Indian poem. In Hindi with English subtitles

3.25 Film: Five Came Back (1939, b/w). Chester Morris, Lucille Ball and Wendy Barrie head the cast in an early disaster movie about a plane that crashes into the Brazilian jungle. Trapped between two mountain ranges in a dangerous country populated by head-hunters, the survivors discover that as time passes they are unable to keep their feelings under control. Although somewhat dated, the film still maintains a high level of excitement. It has become something of a cult and been the inspiration for several similar stories. Directed by John Farrow

4.40 Darts. Live coverage of the Embassy world professional championship

6.25 NewsView with Moira Stuart and Lynette Lithgow. Weather

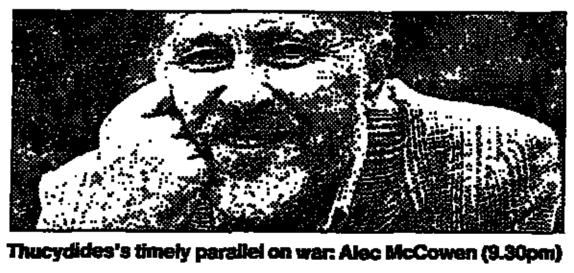
7.10 Crufts 91. Highlights from the final day of the competition and the special centenary pageant are introduced by Angela Rippon, Peter Purves and Mike Stockman. There is live coverage of the climax of the event, the competition for the Best in Show and the much sought-after title of Supreme Champion. From the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham

8.00 The Tower of Dreams. BBC2's series of musical profiles continues with a fantasy documentary on the life of the little-known French 20th-century composer, Charles Koechlin. Koechlin, who died on New Year's Eve in 1950, has been called the missing link between Debussy and Messiaen, although he is better known as a teacher and theorist than as a composer

9.00 French and Saunders. Repeat run of the comedy show starring Dawn French and Jennifer Saunders. Sketches include their version of *The Sound of Music* and the supergroup of the Seventies, Abba, also gets the French and Saunders treatment (r)

9.30 The War That Never Ends.

● CHOICE: Offered to suggest parallels with the crisis in the Gulf, this is an adaptation by John Barton of the Royal Shakespeare Company of Thucydides's *The History of the Peloponnesian War Between Athens and Sparta*. Directed by Jack Gold in a style reflecting the immediacy of current affairs rather than the conventions of costume drama, it aims, in the words of the prologue, "to hold up an ancient mirror to our current confusions." The war between Athens and Sparta started during the 5th century BC, lasted 27 years and destroyed an empire. The account by Thucydides, who had been a general in the Athenian army, is a classic analysis of the mistakes that cause war and the tragedy of defeat. In a formidable cast Alec McCowen is Thucydides, with Ben Kingsley as Pericles and Don Henderson as Socrates, and other leading parts are played by Bob Peck and Ronald Pickup



Thucydides's timely parallel on war: Alec McCowen (9.30pm)

10.45 Twin Peaks. A feature-length curtain-raiser to the second series of David Lynch's cult whodunit set in a rural American town (r). (Ceefax)

12.15am Film: Boy Slaves (1939, b/w). Anne Shirley, Roger Daniel and James McCallion star in a sombre tale set during the American depression of the Thirties. A gang of youths falls into the hands of unscrupulous turpentine farmers, who treat them as little better than slave labour. Although it was made more than half a century ago, this is its first showing on British television. Directed by P.J. Wolfson. Ends at 1.20

ITV

6.00 TV-am

9.25 Motormouth. With Andy Crane, Gaby Roslin and Neil Buchanan. Find out how animatronics makes the Ninja Turtles come to life

11.30 The ITV Chart Show

12.30 Saint & Greavsie. Ian St John and Jimmy Greaves look at the sporting action for the weekend and the coming week

1.00 News with Fiona Armstrong. Weather 1.05 LWT News and weather

1.10 Grand Sportsmasters. Sporting quiz. The questionmaster is Dickie Davies

1.40 World Sport Special. Sports action from around the world. Followed by The Day. A crucial 24 hours in the life of an ordinary member of the public (r)

2.10 Golf: PGA Tour '91. Action from the Tournament of Champions in the US

3.05 Snooker: The Mercantile Credit Classic. Tony Francis introduces coverage of the first session of the best-of-19-frames final from the International Centre, Bournemouth.

4.45 Results Service with Elton Welsby

5.00 News with Fiona Armstrong. Weather 5.05 LWT News and weather

5.15 Beverly Hills, 90210. American comedy drama about the Walsh family learning the differences between life in Minneapolis and their new home, Los Angeles

6.10 Catchphrase. Roy Walker hosts the high-tech quiz show

6.40 Blind Date. Exhibitionists preen their feathers and polish their wits before placing themselves on display for the chance of being matched with one of their kind — but of the opposite sex. Cilla Black goads them on. (Oracle)

An academic killing: Kevin Whately and John Thaw (7.40pm)

7.40 Inspector Morse. Cerebral sleuth series set in Oxford. The opera-loving Inspector Morse (John Thaw) and his put-upon sidekick Sergeant Lewis (Kevin Whately) investigate the murder of a respected academic (r). (Oracle)

9.40 News with Fiona Armstrong. Sport and weather 9.55 LWT Weather

10.00 Aspel and Company.

● CHOICE: The extremes of the television chat show are neatly represented by the sycophancy of Terry Wogan and the subversion of Dame Edna Everage. While Terry flatters his guests, Dame Edna insults them. Both fancy themselves as comics but only Dame Edna succeeds. Michael Aspel represents a happy medium. He does not expect his guests to make fools of themselves, as Dame Edna does, but neither does he play up to them in the manner of the Irish charmer. His questioning is intelligent and not usually designed to elicit a plug for the subject's latest book, film or West End play. Part of the secret is to get the right mixture of guests, sufficiently contrasting but still able to relate to each other, and Aspel's show usually manages it. Tonight's trio are Tom Jones, Dave Allen and Penelope Keith

10.45 Snooker: The Mercantile Credit Classic. Tony Francis introduces coverage of the last session of the final from the International Leisure Centre, Bournemouth. Plus interviews with the new champion and the defeated finalist at the end of the programme

12.30am Film: Joe Kidd (1974). Clint Eastwood is Joe Kidd and Joe Kidd is Clint Eastwood in a typical Clint-style Western with guns, baddies, Mexicans and a scene with Joe driving a train through a bar room. Joe is a bounty hunter who teams up with a bunch of Mexicans battling to hang on to their land against powerful landowner Frank Harlan (Robert Duvall) in turn-of-the-century New Mexico. Filled with shootings, stubble and shenanigans. Directed by John Sturges. Followed by News headlines

2.05 Film: Banyon — Walk Up and Die (1971). It's all go for tough private eye Miles Banyon when a woman is found dead in his office, killed by his gun. More murders happen with such regularity that the poor chap hardly has time for his favorite tipple — a cup of tea. Decent Thirties caper starring Robert Forster, Jose Ferrer, Hermione Gingold and Anjanette Comer. Directed by Robert Day

3.50 Backstage

4.00 The Hit Man And Her. Cool sounds from hot clubs presented by Pete Waterman and Michaela Strachan

5.10 ITN Morning News with Anne Leuchars. Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Comic Book 7.30 News summary 7.35 International Times 8.00 Transworld Sport. International sporting news and interviews

9.00 News summary 9.03 Channel 4 Racing: The Morning Line 9.25 Sing and Swing with the jazz stars of the Thirties and Forties (r)

9.30 Listening Eye: Signs of Our Times. Series on the lives and experiences of deaf people. Former pupils remember their schooldays, from the grim Victorian institutions of the early 20th century to the more enlightened schooling of today (r)

10.00 Matters of Taste: Capitals of the Wine World. Jancis Robinson continues her series on food and drink by asking where the centre of wine connoisseurship is to be found (r). (Teletext)

10.30 Film: Andy Hardy Comes Home (1958, b/w). One of a series of low-budget Andy Hardy films produced by MGM. Andy (Mickey Rooney) returns to his home town a rich and successful lawyer, thus continuing the saga after a gap of 12 years. He tries to buy a factory site and runs into local opposition. Directed by Howard Koch

12.00 Broken Silence. The documentary series about animal behaviour takes a look at some of the amazing journeys undertaken by animals (r)

12.30 American Football: Red 42 (r)

1.00 Fragile Earth: Earth First. The Daintree rainforest in Australia has been saved from the bulldozer thanks to the protests of concerned environmentalists (r)

2.00 Film: The Long Gray Line (1955). Sentimental and overstretched biopic which celebrates the career of Marty Maher and the merits of West Point military academy. Tyrone Power plays the Irish immigrant who found a home and family within the academy grounds and turned himself into the embodiment of West Point tradition as athletics trainer. Directed by John Ford

4.35 The Return of the Prodigal Son. Musings on the nature and history of Finland when one of its sons returns home from exile

5.05 Brookside Omnibus. Liverpool soap set on a suburban close (r). (Teletext)

6.25 News summary and weather

6.30 Right To Reply. A new format for the programme which gives viewers an opportunity to make their feelings felt about programming on all channels. Rory McGrath takes over as presenter and viewers can now make their own television reports

7.00 The World This Week presented by Sheena McDonald. An edition devoted to the Gulf crisis, with analysis of the latest diplomatic moves and reports on the military build-up

8.00 Conquer The Arctic III: The Gore-Tex Trophy Part 1. The third of Trans World International's winter sports endurance competitions. Eight two-man teams from around the world test each other's mettle as they compete in the pull/dog race (sled-pulling), the wild downhill (off-piste skiing) and the rough terrain race, on skis and on foot through a boulder-strewn valley. Just for good measure, competitors are weighed down by survival packs suitable to the harsh Arctic climate of Kiruna in Sweden, where it all takes place. (Teletext)

9.00 LA Law. Polished American drama series about an up-market Los Angeles law firm

The artistic importance of being Wilde: Stephen Rea (10.00pm)

10.00 Small Stages: Saint Oscar.

● CHOICE: The first of five productions from the British fringe theatre features Terry Eagleton's play about Oscar Wilde, which won plaudits from Londonderry to Hampstead. Presented on a single all-purpose set with musical interludes which act as a chorus, *Saint Oscar* follows Wilde before, during and after his trial and into exile in Paris. But this is more an exploration of ideas than a formal biography, feeding its hero with a glitter of Wildean aphorisms with which to attack English hypocrisy ("homosexual behaviour is as English as morris dancing, if somewhat less tedious") and assert the importance of Oscar as artist. Affecting a Derek Nimmo voice, Stephen Rea may not look like Wilde, but his performance is all of a convincing piece, brittle, brilliant, mocking, self-indulgent and ultimately sad. The symbolic canonisation may be harder to take, at least on the British side of the Irish Sea

11.30 After Dark. The return of Channel 4's experiment in live open-ended debate. Tonight's subject — in light of the situation in the Gulf — is guns and gun-runners. Among those taking part is the controversial Labour MP Tam Dalyell

SATELLITE

SKY ONE

● Via the Astra and Marco Polo satellites.
6.00am Elephant Boy. *The Tyrant* 6.30 The Flying Kiwi. *Find the Lady* 7.00 Fun Factory 11.00 The Bionic Woman *Iron Ships and Dead Men* 12.00 Beyond 2000 1.00pm Combat *Walking Wounded* 2.00 WWF Wrestling Challenge 3.00 Cool Cube 5.00 Chopper Squad 6.00 New Kids on the Block: No More Games Concert 8.00 China Beach: *Skylark* 9.00 Designing Women 9.30 Murphy Brown 10.00 The Happening 11.30 Monsters: *Rise Him Not* 12.00 Twist in the Tale 12.30am Pages from Skytext 3.20 Cricket: Benson and Hedges World Cup Series. Live coverage of the first final from Sydney

SKY NEWS

● Via the Astra satellite.
News on the hour.
5.30am Newsline 6.30 The Reporters 9.30 Newsline 10.30 Motor Sports News 11.00 Dayline 11.30 Health Circuit 12.30pm The Reporters 1.30 Fashion TV 2.30 International Business Report Week 3.30 Health Circuit 4.30 Motor Sports News 5.30 Fashion TV 6.30 The Reporters 7.30 International Business Report Week 8.30 Health Circuit 10.30 Fashion TV 11.30 The Reporters 12.30am Our World 1.30 CBS News 2.30 Those Were the Days 3.30 CBS News 4.30 Motor Sports News

SKY NEWS

● Via the Marco Polo satellite.
News on the hour.
5.30am Newsline 6.30 The Reporters 9.30 Newsline 10.30 Motor Sports News 11.00 Dayline 11.30 Health Circuit 12.30pm The Reporters 1.30 Mozart's Don Giovanni, Part One 3.30 Mozart's Don Giovanni, Part Two 5.30 Schubert's Fifth Symphony 6.30 The Reporters 7.30 Stravinsky's The Firebird 10.30 Piano Recital: Leonid Chizhik 11.30 The Reporters 12.30am Our World 1.30 CBS News 2.30 Those Were the Days 3.30 CBS News 4.30 Motor Sports News

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SKY MOVIES

● Via the Astra satellite.
6.00am Showcase
8.00 Challenge to be Free (1972) Two men set off on a journey across the Arctic
10.00 The Glo-Friends: The Movie — The Quest: Animated tale
12.00 Operation Petticoat (1959): Comedy, starring Cary Grant and Tony Curtis, about the captain of a crippled submarine
2.00pm The Return of the Incredible Hulk (1988): When scientist David Banner (Bill Bixby) is angered, he turns into a not-so-jolly green giant (Lou Ferrigno)
4.00 California Girls (1979): Dennis Christopher searches for the "in" crowd
6.00 The Lady and the Highwayman (1988): A swashbuckling romance
7.40 Entertainment Tonight
8.00 Rocky III (1982): Rocky (Sylvester Stallone) has lost both his title and his manager (Burgess Meredith)
10.00 Skin Deep (1988): Zach Hutton (John Ritter) embarks on an odyssey of sex and drink before patching up his marriage with his long-suffering wife (Alyson Reed)
11.30 Love and Passion: A quartet of former lovers meet by chance
1.00am Recruits (1986): A police chief creates the worst police force of all time
2.30 A Switch in Time (1987): A comedy adventure which takes a trip back in time
4.00 Salome's Last Dance (1988): Ken Russell's extravagant version of Oscar Wilde's play. Ends at 5.30

EUROSPORT

● Via the Astra satellite.
7.30am As Sky One 9.00 Mobil One Motor Sport News 9.30 Saturday Alive. Ford Ski Report; World Swimming Championships; World Cup Skiing; World Swimming Championships; Snooker; World Cup Skiing 5.45pm Cycling 6.45 Yachting 7.15 Wrestling 8.45 Boxing 9.45 Motor Sport: Paris-Dakar Rally 10.00 World Swimming Championships 12.00 Motor Sport 12.15am World Cup Skiing

SCREENSPORT

● Via the Astra satellite.
7.00am Dutch European Cup Table Tennis 8.00 World Snooker Classics 10.00 US College Football 12.00 Stop-Mud and Monsters Stunt Racing Trucks 1.00pm Stop-Kick Boxing 2.00 NBA Basketball 4.00 Powersports 5.00 Stop-World Champions 6.00 1991 Paris-Dakar Rally: Day 12 6.15 Motor Sport Rallycross 7.15 Spanish Football Roundup 7.45 1991 Paris-Dakar Rally 9.00 Weekend Live US PGA Northern Telecom Open 11.00 1991 Paris-Dakar Rally 11.15 Spain Spain Sport 11.30 Boxing from the Forum 12.20am US College Football 3.00 NBA Basketball 5.00 Ice Hockey

MTV

● Via the Astra satellite.
Twenty-four hours of rock and pop

LIFESTYLE

● Via the Astra satellite.
12.00 Captain Power 12.30pm WKRP in Cincinnati 1.00 The Joan Rivers Show 1.50 Formula One 2.45 Dixon's Photo Show 3.00 Wrestling 4.00 The Edge of Night 5.00 The Sell-a-Vision Shopping Channel 8.00 JSTV 10.00 The Sell-a-Vision Shopping Channel 12.00 Satellite Jukebox

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

● Via the Marco Polo satellite.
11.35am The Devil at 4 O'Clock (1961): Spencer Tracy and Frank Sinatra fight to save a colony of lepers
1.55pm The Silver Chalice (1954): A Greek slave is freed and goes on to make the chalice used at the Last Supper
4.25 Pound Puppies and the Legend of Big Paw (1988): Cartoon
6.00 To Heal a Nation (1988): The true story of a Vietnam veteran, who fought to build a war memorial in Washington
8.00 The Great Outdoors (1988): A family arrives uninvited to share a summer holiday
10.00 Summer School (1987): A high school teacher (Mark Harmon) abandons his vacation to teach a group of delinquents
11.50 April Fool's Day (1986). A teenager's pranks result in murder
1.30am Twins (1988): Danny DeVito and Arnold Schwarzenegger. Ends at 3.25

THE SPORTS CHANNEL

● Via the Marco Polo satellite.
9.30am Sportsdesk 10.00 Basketball 12.00 Texas Championship Rodeo 1.00pm Sportsdesk 1.30 Racing Today 2.00 Tuff Trax 3.00 Motor World 3.30 American Sports Cavalcade 4.30 American Wrestling 5.30 NFL Playoff: Miami Dolphins v Buffalo Live 8.30 Sportsdesk 9.00 NFL Playoff: Washington Redskins v San Francisco 49ers 12.00 Sportsdesk 12.30am Rugby League: Regal Cup 1.30 Racing Today

THE POWER STATION

● Via the Marco Polo satellite.
8.00am Nineteen hours of rock and pop

RADIO 1

FM Stereo and MW. 5.00am Jenny Costello 7.00 The Bruno and Liz Breakfast Show 10.00 Dave Lee Travis 1.00pm Adrian Juste 2.00 Classic Albums. Slippery When Wet — Bon Jovi 3.00 The Saturday Sequence with Richard Skinner 7.00 The Saturday Rock Show presented by Alan Freeman 10.00 In Concert: Eurorock '90 11.00-2.00am John Peel

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. 4.00am Dave Bussey 6.00 Graham Knight 8.05 Ronnie Hilton with Sounds of the Fifties 9.00 Brian Matthew with Sounds of the Sixties 10.00 Anne Robinson 12.00 Gerald Harper: Saturday Selection 1.30pm Pull the Other One (r) 2.00 Robin Ray on Record 3.00 Gerry Anderson 4.45 John Walker at the console of his Yamaha HX1 5.00 Cinema 2 with Charles Nove 5.30 The Movie Quiz with Chris Serle 6.00 Bob Holness Requests the Pleasure . . . 7.00 The ABC Quiz presented by Ken Bruce 7.30 Saturday Gala Night. BBC Concert Orchestra Tour of Germany 1990 9.30 Easy Does It with the BBC Big Band 10.00 The Radio 2 Arts Programme with Sheridan Morley 12.05am Cinema 2 (broadcast at 5.00pm) 12.30-4.00 Colin Berry with Night Ride

RADIO 5

6.00am World Service: Newsdesk 6.30 Morning Edition, incl 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 7.05, 8.05, 9.00 Sports 9.02 On Your Marks, incl 10.00, 11.00 Sport 12.00 News: Call the Controller: Put your questions on Radio 5's sports service to Patricia Ewing, the network's controller, and Larry Hodgson, head of sport 12.30pm Sports Call: 0345 909 693 1.30 Sport on 5 with John Inverdale. Football: Barclays League. Tottenham v Arsenal, Aston Villa v Liverpool, Man Utd v Sunderland; Racing from Ascot 2.00 Victor Chandler Handicap Chase; Rugby League Regal Trophy Final 5.00 Sports Report 6.00 As Radio 4 10.00 Sport 10.15 As Radio 4 11.00 Sport 11.10 World Service. People and Politics 11.40 The International Money Programme 11.55 Words of Faith 12.00-12.10am News and Sport

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. 5.00am German Features 5.35 News in German; Headlines in English and French 5.47 Press Review 5.52 Financial News 5.56 Weather and Travel News 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 Londres Matin 6.59 Weather 7.00 World News 7.09 24 Hours: News Summary 7.30 From the Weeklies 7.45 Instruments of the Orchestra 8.00 World News 8.09 Words of Faith 8.15 A Jolly Good Show 9.00 World News 9.09 9.15 The World Today 9.30 Financial News 9.39 Sports Roundup 9.45 Network UK 10.00 News Summary 10.01 Here's Humph! 10.15 Letter from America 10.30 People and Politics 11.00 World News 11.09 News About Britain 11.15 Club 648 11.30 Midi Magazine 11.59 Travel News 12.00 Newsreel 12.15pm Multitrack 3 12.45 Sports Roundup 1.00 World News 1.09 24 Hours: News Summary 1.30 Network UK 1.45 Good Books 2.00 News Summary 2.01 John Peel 2.30 Sportsworld 3.00 Newsreel 3.15 Sportsworld (cont) 4.00 World News 4.09 News About Britain 4.15 BBC English 4.30 News and Features in German 4.59 Travel News 5.00 News Summary 5.01 Sportsworld. Final Results 5.30 Londres Soir 6.14 News Headlines in English 6.15 BBC English 6.30 Heute Aktuell 7.54 News in German 8.00 World News 8.09 Society Today 8.25 Words of Faith 8.30 Meridian 9.00 News Summary 9.01 Sports Roundup 9.15 Short Story: The Silver Toe Rings 9.30 From Our Own Correspondent 9.50 Write On.. 10.00 Newshour 11.00 World News 11.05 Words of Faith 11.10 Book Choice 11.15 A Jolly Good Show 12.00 Newsdesk 12.30am The Ken Bruce Show 1.00 News Summary 1.01 Play of the Week: The Chekhov Vaudeville 2.00 World News 2.09 Review of the British Press 2.15 They Made Our World 2.25 Book Choice 2.30 Rebuilding the Lily 3.00 World News 3.09 News About Britain 3.15 Society Today 3.30 From Our Own Correspondent 3.50 Write On... 3.59 Weather 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Personal View 4.45 News and Press Review in German

ITV VARIATIONS

ANGLIA

As London except: 2.10pm-3.05 The A-Team 12.30am Film: Horror at 37,000 feet 2.00 The Hit Man and Her 4.00-5.00 Indy Car World

BORDER

As London except: 1.40pm Matlock 2.40-3.05 Spectacular World of Guinness Records 12.30am Film: Harry O 2.00 The Hit Man and Her 4.00 Comics — The Ninth Art 4.30-5.00 America's Top Ten

CENTRAL

As London except: 1.40pm Ski Tips 2.10 Out of Limits 2.15-3.05 The Spectacular World of Guinness Records 12.30am Film: Beat Girl 2.10 Hodson Confidential 2.40 CinemAttractions 3.10 America's Top Ten 3.40 Profile 4.00-5.00 American College Football

CHANNEL

As London except: 2.10pm-3.05 Hard Time on Planet Earth 12.30am Dirty Dancing — The Concert Tour 2.10 America's Top Ten 2.40 CinemAttractions 3.10 American College Football 4.05-5.00 The American Century

GRANADA

As London except: 1.40pm Matlock 2.35-3.05 The Spectacular World of Guinness Records 12.30am Film: Harry O 2.00 The Hit Man and Her 4.00 New Comics — The Ninth Art 4.30-5.00 America's Top Ten

HTV WEST

As London except: 2.10pm-3.05 The Young Riders 12.30am Hardball 1.25 Film: The Criminal 3.10 New Music 4.10-5.00 Raw Power

HTV WALES

As HTV West except: 12.30am-1.25 Rugby Round-Up

TSW

As London except: 1.40pm The South West Week 2.10-3.05 Coronation Street 12.30am Film: Harry O 2.00 The Hit Man and Her 4.00 Comics — The Ninth Art 4.30-5.00 America's Top Ten

TVS

As London except: 2.10pm-3.05 Hard Time on Planet Earth 12.30am Dirty Dancing — Live in Concert 2.10 America's Top Ten 2.40 CinemAttractions 3.10 American College Football 4.05-5.00 The American Century

TYNE TEES

As London except: 2.10pm-3.05 The A-Team 12.30am Film: Harry O 2.00 The Hit Man and Her 4.00 Comics — The Ninth Art 4.30-5.00 America's Top Ten

ULSTER

As London except: 2.10pm-3.05 The A-Team 12.30am Film. Harry O 2.00 The Hit Man and Her 4.00 Comics — The Ninth Art 4.30-5.00 America's Top Ten

YORKSHIRE

As London except: 1.40pm The A-Team 2.35-3.05 The Spectacular World of Guinness Records 12.30am Film: Death Ship 2.00 The Hit Man and Her 4.00-5.00 Derrick

S4C

Starts: 6.00 Early Morning 9.25 Sing and Swing 9.30 Listening Eye 10.00 Class by Class 10.30 The Secret Life of Machines 11.00 Travelog 11.30 Remote Control 12.00 Jonathan Ross 12.30 American Football · Red 42 1.00 Dominic and the Skyscraper 2.30 Film: The Story of Dr Wassell 5.05 Brookside 6.30 Newyddion 6.40 Nos Sadwrn 7.40 C'Mon Midffild 8.25 Y Maes Chwarae 9.25 Film: The Conversation 11.30 After Dark 1.30 Diwedd

RTE 1

Starts: 10.05am Film: Old Mother Riley MP 11.20 Film: Ugly Dachshund 12.55 Chips 1.45 News followed by Sunday Drive 2.35 Film: Echo of the Badlands 3.35 Film: Men Are Not Gods 5.10 Charlie Chase 5.30 To the Waters and the Wild 6.00 The Angelus 6.01 News 6.15 Mailbag 6.40 Talkabout 7.10 Star Trek: The Next Generation 8.00 Secrets 9.00 News 9.20 Dallas 10.15 Kenny Live 11.40 Mother Love 12.35am News 12.40 Close

NETWORK 2

Starts: 12.30pm News 12.34 Sports Stadium 5.10 Film: Jassy 6.55 Nuacht 7.00 The Brain 8.00 News followed by Film. Beat the Devil 9.40 Film: Common Threads 10.55 Film: The Legend of Lylah Clare 1.10am Close

Michael Aspel (ITV, 10.00pm)

RADIO 3

6.55am Weather and News Headlines

7.00 Morning Concert: Telemann (Suite in A minor: Ricercar Consort, with Frederic de Roos, flute)

7.30 News

7.35 Morning Concert (cont): Elgar (Cockaigne Overture: LPO under Georg Solti); Wagner, trans Liszt (Elsa's Bridal Procession, Lohengrin: Zoltan Kocsis, piano); Villa-Lobos (Bachianas brasileiras No 5: French NRO under the composer, with Victoria de los Angeles, soprano); Tchaikovsky (Capriccio Italien: Berlin PO under Ozawa)

8.30 News

8.35 Ulster Orchestra under Christopher Fry, with Peter Lawson, piano, performs Vaughan Williams (Overture, The Wasps); Malcolm Williamson (Piano Concerto No 2); Malcolm Arnold (Solitaire — complete ballet)

9.30 Saturday Review with Richard Osborne. Record Review — Building a Library. Nicholas Kenyon on Monteverdi's Vespers of 1610; Robert Philip reviews new issues of Beethoven, Schubert and Schumann on period instruments

10.40 Call the Controller: 071-580 4411

● CHOICE: John Drummond (Radio 3) is one of the last two BBC radio controllers (the other is Radio 5's Patricia Ewing, at 9am) to fill the hot seat in a week when listeners phone in to discuss their pet likes and hates (mostly the latter). In radio, as everywhere else, getting it straight from the horse's mouth is still the most effective way of establishing good relations between supplier and consumer, and BBC radio is lucky to have network controllers who can dish it out as well as take it

11.30 Record Release: Beethoven (Piano Trio, Op 1 No 3: Castle Trio); Monteverdi (Motets for Three Voices: Tragicomedia); Schubert (Impromptu, D 899 No 1: Lambert Orkis, fortepiano); Schumann (Symphony No 3, Rhenish: London Classical Players under Roger Norrington)

12.55pm Words: And, Because, Therefore. Reflections by the writer Gabriel Josipovici (r)

1.00 News

1.05 Schumann and Brahms Songs: Olaf Bär, baritone, Helmut Deutsch, piano, perform Schumann (Kerner Songs, Op 35); Brahms (German Folk Songs) (r)

2.15 BBC Welsh SO under Louis Frémaux, with Ulf Hoelscher, violin, performs Wagner (Overture, Tannhäuser); Sibelius (Violin Concerto in D minor); Tchaikovsky (Symphony No 6 in B minor, Pathétique), incl 3.05 Interval Reading

4.00 Henze at the Barbican: A festival of music by Hans Werner Henze. BBC Singers under Stephen Jackson; London Sinfonietta under Ingo Metzmacher perform Choral Fantasy; Five Neapolitan Songs. 4.45 Philip Brady explores Henze's working relationship with the Austrian poet Ingeborg Bachman. 5.10 Ballet, The Idiot. The world premiere of the revised concert version performed in Michael Hulse's new English translation

6.00 Jazz Record Requests, with Charles Fox

6.45 Third Opinion, with Christopher Cook

7.30 Brahms (Piano Trio No 3 in C minor, Op 101: Julius Katchen, piano, Josef Suk, violin, Janos Starker, cello)

8.00 Henze at the Barbican: The English Cat. Part one of an opera by Hans Werner Henze, to a libretto by Edward Bond. Parnassus Ensemble under the composer performs live from the Opera Theatre, Guildhall School of Music and Drama, in a staging by Montepulciano Cantiere Productions. With Neil Jenkins, tenor, as Lord Puff; Sally Harrison, soprano, as Minette; Ellen Andreassen, mezzo, as Babette; and John Oakley-Tucker, baritone, as Tom. 8.50 Peter Heyworth considers Henze's role as an opera composer. 9.10 Part 2

10.30 Issues: Robert Hewison talks with Fredric Jameson (r)

10.55 Northern Sinfonia performs C.P.E. Bach (Sinfonia in B flat); Heberle (Recorder Concerto); J.C. Bach (Sinfonia Concertante for violin, cello and orchestra); J.S. Bach (Brandenburg Concerto No 4) (r)

12.00 News 12.05am Close

RADIO 4

(s) Stereo on FM

5.55am Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing; Weather 6.10 The Farming Week 6.50 Prayer for the Day (s) 7.00 Today, incl 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 7.55, 8.58 Weather

9.00 News 9.05 Sport on 4

9.30 Breakaway: Ken Bruce presents travel and holiday news. Richard Vaughan looks at a sailing holiday off the Turkish coast

10.00 News; Loose Ends: Conversation with Ned Sherrin, Sandi Toksvig, Arthur Smith, Robert Elms and Emma Freud (s)

11.00 News; Talking Politics: Andrew Marr examines how policies are developed by the major parties

11.30 *From Our Own Correspondent*

12.00 Money Box, with Louise Botting and Vincent Duggleby

12.25pm Just a Minute: Nicholas Parsons hosts the non-stop talking show. With Peter Jones, Wendy Richard, Tim Rice and Richard Stilgoe (s) 12.55 Weather

1.00 News

1.10 Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby is joined in Wincanton, Somerset, by Tony Banks, MP, Labour party spokesman on social security; Sue Slipman, director of the National Council for One-parent Families; Auberon Waugh, editor of the *Literary Review*; and Emma Nicholson, MP (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast

2.00 News; Any Answers? 071-580 4411. Listeners can call Jonathan Dimbleby with their views on the issues raised in *Any Questions?*

2.30 Saturday Playhouse: Absolute Discretion, by Grant Eustace. Arthur Vernel (Ben Daniels) is a chemistry student at Oxford in the 1860s, who is sent to investigate a mystery surrounding the Earl of Warminster's family (s)

4.00 News: Man About Town: "Babes in Arms" and Gas Masks. Four reflections of life in London during the Thirties and Forties, chronicled by the theatre critic and broadcaster James Agate (2) (s) (r)

4.30 Science Now, with Alun Lewis

5.00 On the Ropes: John Humphrys talks to four people who have weathered storms in their careers. 2: Count Nikolai Tolstoy (r)

5.25 Week Ending: A satirical review of the week's news (s) (r) 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather

6.00 News; Sports Round-Up

6.25 Citizens: Omnibus edition (s)

7.10 Stop the Week, with Robert Robinson (s)

7.45 Classic Serial: The Forsyte Chronicles. Episode 16 of a 23-part dramatisation of John Galsworthy's saga, narrated by Dirk Bogarde (s)

8.45 Kaleidoscope: Paul Allen talks to the writer Anthony Mingella (s) (r)

9.15 Music in Mind: Brian Kay with a selection of popular melodies (s)

9.50 Ten to Ten, led by Fr Oliver McTernan (s) 9.59 Weather

10.00 News

10.15 Fine Tuning

● CHOICE: Although quite a wag and an above-average anecdotalist, George Jacques is a piano tuner of the old school — respectful, patient, and concerned as much for the happiness of the pianist as for the sound of the piano. Therefore, he avoids awful puns, such as his musical patrons being highly-strung. Jacques has tuned pianos for keyboard celebrities, including Solomon, Rubinstein, Ashkenazy and John Lill. At a humbler level, he recalls the little Welsh lady who insisted her piano must be a good one because it took four men to move it

10.45 Pen to Paper: This week's anthology of new writing is on the subject of time (s)

11.00 Richard Baker Compares Notes with husband-and-wife composers David Lumsdaine and Nicola LeFanu (s) (r)

11.30 And Now, In Colour . . . Stately Home. The comedy team returns with more songs and sketches. With Tim Firth, Tim de Jongh, Michael Rutger and William Vandyck (s)

12.00-12.30am News, incl 12.20 Weather 12.33 Shipping Forecast

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m;1089kHz/275m;FM-97.6-99.8. Radio 2: FM-88-90.2. Radio 3: 1215kHz/247m; FM-90-92.4. Radio 4: 198kHz/1515m;FM-92.4-94.6. Radio 5: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m. World Service: MW 648kHz/463m. Jazz FM 102.2. LBC: 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3. Capital: 1548kHz/194m; FM 95.8. GLR: 1458kHz/206m; FM 94.9; Melody FM 104.9.

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BBC 1

8.50 (Wales only) See Hear!

9.15 All God's Children. Series that looks at different faiths in Britain 9.30 This Is The Day. Anne Murray talks about her involvement in establishing a cross-community school in Londonderry

10.00 A Vous la France! (r). Wales (to 12.30) See You Sunday 10.25 España Viva (r) 10.50 Step Up to Wordpower. Effective communicating (r) 11.15 A Way with Numbers. Maths for adults

11.40 Business Matters: The Giving Business – Business of Charity. The first of two programmes in which Martyn Lewis explores the application of business skills to charity fund raising (r). (Ceefax)

12.05 See Hear! This week's edition of the magazine for the hearing impaired comes from the Western Highlands of Scotland 12.30 Country File. John Craven with up-to-date coverage of topical rural issues. Wales: Farming in Wales 12.55 Weather

1.00 News with Moira Stuart followed by On The Record. Jonathan Dimbleby asks the defence secretary Tom King about the reasons for the expected war in the Gulf

2.00 EastEnders. Omnibus edition (r). (Ceefax)

3.00 Film: Genghis Khan (1965) starring Omar Sharif, Stephen Boyd, Francoise Dorleac and James Mason. Shoddy epic loosely based on the exploits of the Mongol tyrant who invaded both China and Iran. Comic and melodramatic in turn with some tasteful violence, and mildly entertaining if one keeps up with the meandering plot. Directed by Henry Levin 5.00 Betty Boop. Vintage cartoon

5.05 The Clothes Show looks at voguish babywear and surplus army uniforms from East Germany

5.30 Antiques Roadshow from Merthyr Tydfil. (Ceefax)

6.15 OK2 Talk Feelings. A battered wife tells of her experiences and how she finally managed to stand up to her bullying husband. (Ceefax)

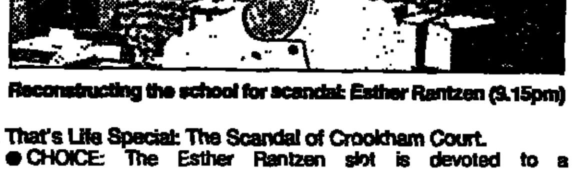
6.25 News with Martyn Lewis. (Ceefax) Weather

6.40 Songs of Praise. Martin Bashir joins members and friends of the *Boys' Brigade at the Methodist Central Hall, Westminster.* (Ceefax)

7.15 Only Fools and Horses . . . John Sullivan's comedy of a south London wheeler-dealer and his gormless brother is still as fresh as ever after nearly nine years. Del, engaged to Raquel and an expectant father, is on cloud nine but Rodney is still estranged from his wife, Cassandra. Starring David Jason and Nicholas Lyndhurst, with Buster Merryfield as Uncle Albert and Tessa Peake-Jones as Raquel . (Ceefax)

8.05 *Lovejoy: The Italian Venus. Drama* with a wry comic touch and a catchy theme tune starring Ian McShane as the rough-diamond antiques dealer. Former *Minder* stalwart Patrick Malahide plays a wealthy landowner whose brother is cut off without a penny, but trust Lovejoy to put matters right. With Phyllis Logan as Lady Jane. (Ceefax)

9.00 News with Martyn Lewis. (Ceefax) Weather



Reconstructing the school for scandal: Esther Rantzen (9.15pm)

9.15 That's Life Special: The Scandal of Crookham Court.

● CHOICE: The Esther Rantzen slot is devoted to a *reconstruction*, with actors, of the trial last summer of the principal and a teacher from a private boarding school in Berkshire for sexual offences against pupils. Each man was jailed for ten years but the case raised wider issues to which the programme addresses itself. One is why the abused boys, who were the crucial witnesses, had to suffer the ordeal of having to relate their experiences in open court, with the teachers only a few feet away. Another concerns the suppression of relevant evidence, while the film also considers the ease with which child abusers are able to get teaching jobs. These are other points are taken up by a panel including two junior ministers, Michael Fallon and John Patten, the head of Scotland Yard's Obscene Publications Squad, Superintendent Michael Hames, and spokesmen for Childline and the legal profession

10.15 Everyman: Some of My Best Friends. The programme examines *the nature of British prejudice towards Jews, looking beyond* events that make the headlines, such as grave desecration and attacks and instead examines deeply rooted anti-Semitism

10.55 The Days and Nights of Molly Dodd. American comedy series

11.20 Clean Slate. *The education magazine reports on the methods American students have adopted to support themselves, and the problems faced by their British counterparts (r)*

11.50 Mahabharat. Episode 33 (r) 12.30am Weather

BBC 2

7.30 Touché Turtle. Cartoon (r) 7.35 Playdays (r) 7.55 Is That a Fact? The legend of the Tichbourne Dole (r) 8.10 Pinocchio

8.30 Movable Feasts. Children's multi-faith series 8.45 Litt'l Bits. Cartoon 9.10 Corners (r) 9.30 Defenders of the Earth. Animated adventures (r) 9.55 Blue Peter Omnibus (r)

10.45 The Watch House. Concluding part of the ghost story (r) 11.10 Boxpops. Pop music, voxpops and television clips 11.50 The O-Zone. Music, news and competitions 12.05 Booker. A children's drama about a slave in the American deep south (r)

1.00 *One in Four. Magazine series on disabled matters (r)*

1.30 Film: Green for Danger (1946, b/w). Sprightly wartime comedy-thriller starring Alistair Sim, Megs Jenkins and Trevor Howard. Sim gives one of his most engaging performances as the detective inspector called to investigate a bizarre double murder in a country hospital. From the classic crime novel by Christianna Brand. Directed by Sidney Gilliat

2.45 Laurel and Hardy *in Habeas Corpus* (b/w) (r)

3.15 There Is Music in the Air. Andrew Davis conducts the BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra and massed choirs in some of Elgar's occasional pieces such as Pomp and Circumstance and Psalm 48

4.10 Cricket. Australia v New Zealand. Richie Benaud introduces highlights of the first match from Sydney in the finals of the World Series Cup

5.00 Rugby Special. Features Orrell against Harlequins and Northampton v Leicester. Wales: Llanelli v Neath and Bridgend v Cardiff; Northern Ireland: Instonians v Garryowen

6.00 Ski Sunday. The men's downhill and slalom from Kitzbühel

6.35 The Money Programme. The food mountains of Europe are still growing bigger, despite efforts to restrain production. Rory Cellan-Jones reports on the problems. Plus Tom Maddocks on the Midland Bank now it is no longer facing a merger

7.15 The Natural World: Scandinavia – *Lands of the Midnight Sun.* First of a compelling two-part look at the natural world of Norway and Sweden. (Ceefax)

8.05 De Gaulle and France.

● CHOICE: A three-part documentary marking the de Gaulle centenary (which actually fell last November) is a Franco-American *co-production masterminded by Judith Vecchione who was* responsible for the excellent civil rights series, *Eyes on the Prize.* Tonight's instalment starts with the collapse of France in 1940 and ends with de Gaulle's resignation and return to private life six years later. In between it covers his exile in London, his often stormy relations with Churchill and Roosevelt and his triumphant return to Paris for the liberation. As often with television history, the story is mostly familiar and the novelty derives from the memories of contemporaries and archive footage. The interviewees include de Gaulle's colleagues and members of his family, while the archive film, *much of it new to British audiences,* covers such episodes as the French surrender, D-Day and the trial of Pétain and Laval.

9.00 Screen Two: Heading Home.

● CHOICE: A strong-looking season of BBC films opens with a *return by David Hare to one of his favourite periods, the Forties,* previously explored in *Plenty* and *Licking Hitler*. Joely Richardson plays Janetta, a young woman on her first visit to London who encounters two contrasting faces of post-war Britain. Leonard (Stephen Dillane) is a poet who has had a bad time in the war and is trying to distil the experience in his work. While Leonard is looking back, Ian (Gary Oldman) sees himself as the new man, building a property empire in Notting Hill. Janetta is seduced in turn by Leonard's sensitivity and Ian's energy and drive. Less schematised than this summary might suggest, *Heading Home* is a searchingly written piece which is as much about Janetta, the innocent at large, as her two lovers. Hare the writer is well served by Hare, the director, and the performances are exemplary. (Ceefax)

Seduction: Gary Oldman and Joely Richardson (9.00pm)

10.30 Film: The Doll Maker (1985). Jane Fonda, Levon Helm and Geraldine Page star in a made-for-television film about a strong-willed mother who struggles to keep her family together during the harsh reality of wartime Detroit. Fonda was awarded an Emmy for her performance, *although she is miscast as a hillbilly farmer's* wife. Directed by Daniel Petrie

12.45am Rapido (r). Ends at 1.20

ITV

6.00 TV-am. Includes at 8.05 Frost on Sunday. Gerald Kaufman on the situation in the Gulf and more of last week's interview with the prime minister, John Major. Carol Thatcher and Anthony Howard *review the newspapers.*

9.25 The Disney Club *presented by* Andrea Boardman, John Eccleston and Gordon Inglis

10.45 Link. Peter White presents *Link*'s special 15 year birthday celebrations

11.00 Morning Worship from Southey Street Methodist Chapel, Keswick

12.00 Encounter. Jane Grayshon has had 20 operations in the last 14 years. She now asks the question "is it wise to trust in a loving God?"

12.30 LWT News Weekend with Anna Maria Ashe and Ed Boyle

1.00 News with Sue Carpenter. Weather

1.10 Film: Roar (1981). Lighthearted animal antics with Tippi Hedren as the wife of a biologist (Noel Marshall) who is researching animal life in the African bush. His family join him for a holiday but arrive when he is on safari and come face to face with large and toothy cats. Enjoyable mixture of *Born Free* and Disney. Directed by Noel Marshall

2.55 The Match. Live coverage of the game between Everton and Manchester City at Goodison Park. Alan Parry is the commentator

5.05 The A-Team. The resourceful quartet outwits another set of villains. The team finds itself in a prison where inmates get involved in a grisly fight to free a friend (r)

6.00 Bullseye. Darts and general knowledge game show

6.30 News with Sue Carpenter. Weather 6.35 LWT News and weather

6.40 Appeal. Sir Richard Attenborough with an appeal on *behalf of* Motability, a charity that has provided more than 200,000 cars and 7,000 wheelchairs for disabled people since 1978.

6.45 Highway. *Sir Harry Secombe visits ancient Barnard Castle in* Teesdale.

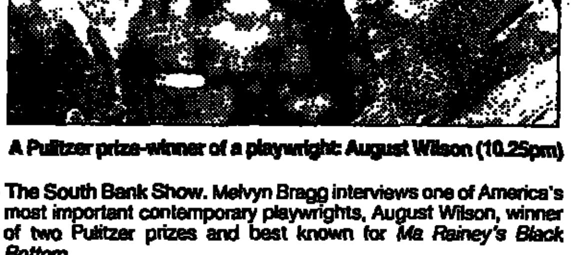
7.15 Murder, She Wrote: Sing a Song of Murder. Another undemanding *murder* mystery with writer turned sleuth Jessica Fletcher. Jessica flies to London to help her actress relative whom someone is trying to murder. Starring Angela Lansbury. (Oracle)

8.05 You've Been Framed! *Jeremy Beadle* presents another collection of jolly japes captured on home video. (Oracle)

8.35 News with Sue Carpenter. Weather 8.50 LWT Weather

8.55 Agatha Christie's Poirot: The Million Dollar Bond Robbery. Stylish period sleuthing with the Belgian detective. Poirot is called upon to escort a million-dollar shipment of bonds aboard the Queen Mary from London to New York, but can he overcome his sickness? Starring David Suchet as Poirot and Hugh Fraser as Captain Hastings. (Oracle)

9.55 The New Statesman: The Party's Over. Rude and boisterous *political satire* with Rik Mayall as ultra right-wing MP, Alan B'stard. With John Major's novelty value wearing thin and an economic crisis looming, the Tories need a young charismatic character to nurse their popularity back to health. Alan thinks he knows just the *chap. With Michael Troughton as Piers. (Oracle)*



A Pulitzer prize-winner of a playwright: August Wilson (10.25pm)

10.25 The South Bank Show. Melvyn Bragg interviews one of America's most important contemporary playwrights, August Wilson, winner of two Pulitzer prizes and best known for *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom.*

11.25 The ITV Chart Show (r)

12.25am New Music. Special programme with stars such as Sting, Whitney Houston, Joni Mitchell and George Harrison singing and giving sound advice on how to save the planet. Followed by News headlines

1.35 Indy Car Racing. The Toyota Grand Prix from Long Beach, California

2.35 Pick of the Week. Highlights from the week's regional television

3.05 Film: Craze (1973). Jack Palance hamming it up as an antique merchant obsessed with an African idol, Chuky, who demands that he must offer blood sacrifices of women to gain worldly success. Saving graces are found in performances from Diana Dors, Edith Evans and Hugh Griffith. Directed by Freddie Francis

4.50 Backstage

5.00 ITN Morning News. Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Transworld Sport (r) 7.00 Pet World presented by Dublin vet John Wilson 7.30 Dr Snuggles 8.00 The Bluffers 8.30 Bobobobs

9.00 Early Bird. Magazine about children's interests made by children.

9.25 Lata In Her Own Voice. A tribute to the world's most recorded singer and a living legend of Indian cinema, Lata Mangeshkar. (In Hindi with English subtitles)

10.00 Answering Back. Mary Goldring talks to Akio Morita, chairman of the Sony Corporation (r)

10.45 Dennis. Cartoon adventures of the mischievous child

11.00 Hot Rod Boogie. A documentary about the home-built racing cars which gather on Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah (r)

11.30 Star Test featuring Julian Cleary

12.00 The Waltons. Family saga of American country folk during the second world war 1.00 Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea (b/w)

2.00 Film: Whisky Galore (1949, b/w). Triumphant Ealing comedy about parched Hebridean islanders who try to liberate the whisky cargo of a sinking second world war ship before bureaucratic forces can retrieve it. With Basil Radford, Joan Greenwood and Gordon Jackson. The directing début of the sharpest Ealing talent, Alexander Mackendrick

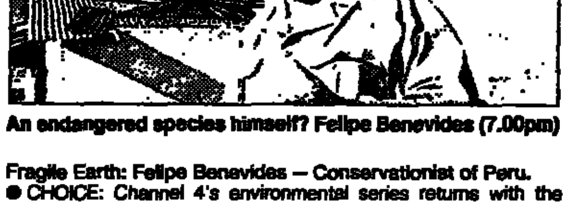
3.30 Dispatches: The Case Against War. A repeat showing of last month's *Dispatches* film on the arguments against going to war in the Gulf 4.15 Animation

4.25 A Hundred Acres: February. Wildlife in 100 acres of British countryside is observed over a six month period from winter to summer. Revisied repeat. (Teletext)

4.55 News summary and weather

5.00 Samsara: Death and Rebirth in Cambodia. Ellen Bruno's film gives a new perspective on the Cambodian struggle to rebuild *lives after the atrocities of the Khmer Rouge*

5.30 Kersplat! Actors Kerry Shale and and Judy Pascoe take an inventive look at the world of comics 5.45 Grim Tales II. Rik Mayall *narrates the story of the Bremen Town Musicians* 6.00 Press Gang. Episode one of a series about a group of children who run their own newspaper (r) 6.30 The Cosby Show. Cosy American sitcom with cuddly Bill Cosby



An endangered species himself? Felipe Benevides (7.00pm)

7.00 Fragile Earth: Felipe Benevides – Conservationist of Peru.

● CHOICE: Channel 4's environmental series returns with the promise of "a harder investigative approach balancing more visually compelling material". Trying to live up to this bold manifesto, a film by Saxon Logan profiles the veteran Peruvian campaigner, Felipe Benevides, and his one-man fight for nature in a country blighted by terrorism, bureaucracy and poverty. Educated at Cambridge and London School of Economics, where his tutor was Harold Laski, Benevides won his first victory nearly 30 years ago when he stopped Aristotle Onassis slaughtering thousands of whales. Logan follows him on two of his campaigns, one against the culling of the vicuna, a creature from the camel family noted for its superb fleece, and the other on behalf of scallop fishermen struggling against commercial exploitation. Autocratic and bloody-minded, Benevides may himself be an endangered species. (Teletext)

8.00 Orchestra! Dudley Moore and Georg Solti continue their guide to the components of the orchestra with a look at the violin and the viola

8.30 American Football. The featured game is the New York Giants at the Chicago Bears, plus highlights from the Buffalo Bills at the Miami Dolphins and the Washington Redskins at the San Francisco 49ers

10.00 Film: Plaza Suite (1971). Efficient screen adaptation of three Neil Simon playlets with the lugubrious Walter Matthau playing the lead role in all three. In the first he is a philanderer celebrating his wedding anniversary who is desperate to get away to his mistress. He then becomes a Hollywood producer attempting to seduce an old flame, and finally a weary father trying to coax his daughter out of the toilet on her wedding day. Maureen Stapleton, Barbara Harris and Lee Grant take the main female roles. Directed by Arthur Hiller

12.10am American Football Update. Includes highlights of the Cincinnati Bengals at the LA Raiders

12.40 Messin' with the Kid. Rory Gallagher recorded at the Cork Opera House in 1987 (r). Ends at 2.10

ITV VARIATIONS

ANGLIA

As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Farming Diary 1.10 The Wonderful World of Disney 2.00-2.55 The Life and Times of Grizzly Adams 5.05-6.00 Highway to Heaven 11.25 The New Avengers 12.25am Soap 12.55 CinemAttractions 1.25 Film: Lola 3.20 Pop Profile 3.30 Transmission 4.30-5.00 Pick of the Week

BORDER

As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Gardening Time 1.10 The Wonderful World of Disney 2.00-2.55 Coronation Street 5.00-6.00 Scotsport 11.35 Prisoner: Cell Block H 12.30am Quiz Night 12.50 I Spy 1.50 Film: The Captain's Table 3.35 The ITV Chart Show 4.25-5.00 Jobfinder

CENTRAL

As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Gardening Time 1.10 Beyond 2000 2.00-2.55 Charlie's Angels 5.05 Bullseye 5.35-6.30 The A-Team 11.25 Prisoner: Cell Block H 12.25am Santa Barbara 1.20 Comics, The Ninth Art 1.50 The ITV Chart Show 2.50 The Story of Steam 3.50 Profile 4.00-5.00 Central Jobfinder '91

GRANADA

As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Close to the Edge 1.10 Disney's All American Sports Nuts 2.00-2.55 Richmond Hill 5.05 Bullseye 5.35-6.30 Coronation Street 11.25 Prisoner: Cell Block H 12.20 Quiz Night 12.50 I Spy 1.50 Film: The Captain's Table 3.35 The ITV Chart Show 4.25-5.00 Jobfinder

HTV WEST

As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 West Country Farming 1.10 Soccer Special 2.00 Newsweek 2.30-2.55 Here Come the Double Deckers 5.05-6.00 Highway to Heaven 11.25 Prisoner: Cell Block H 12.25am The ITV Chart Show 1.20 Festivals of the World 2.20 The US Pro Surfing Tour 3.20 The Hit Man and Her 4.20-5.00 Jobfinder

HTV WALES

As HTV West except: 12.30pm-12.55 Jimmy's 1.10 The Wonderful World of Disney 2.00-2.30 West Country Farming

TSW

As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Farming News 1.10 The Wonderful World of Disney 2.00-2.55 The A-Team 5.05 The Pigler Files 5.35-6.00 Taxi 11.25 The Equalizer 12.20am Quiz Night 12.50 I Spy 1.50 Film: Captain's Table 3.35 The ITV Chart Show 4.25-5.00 TSW Jobfinder

TVS

As London except: 12.30pm TVS News followed by Agenda 1.10 Cartoon 1.25 All American Sports Nuts 2.25-2.55 Ski Tips 11.25 The Human Factor 11.55 The New Avengers 12.55am The ITV Chart Show 2.25 The Twilight Zone 2.50 Backstage 3.00 Books by my Bedside 3.30 Pick of the Week 4.00-5.00 The Hit Man and Her

TYNE TEES

As London except: 12.25pm-1.00 Jack Thompson Down Under 1.10 Film: Delayed Action 2.25 The Back Page 2.55 The Match 5.05 Bullseye 5.35-6.30 Coronation Street 11.25 Prisoner: Cell Block H 12.20am Quiz Night 1.50 Film: The Captain's Table 3.35 The ITV Chart Show 4.25-5.00 Jobfinder

ULSTER

As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Gardening Time 1.10-2.55 Film: The Bridal Path 5.05 Bullseye 5.35-6.30 Coronation Street 11.30 Prisoner: Cell Block H 12.20 Quiz Night 12.50 I Spy 1.50 Film: The Captain's Table 3.35 The ITV Chart Show 4.30-5.00 Jobfinder

YORKSHIRE

As London except: 12.25pm Goals on Sunday 12.50-1.00 Calendar News 1.10-2.55 Film: The Magnificent Two 5.05-6.00 Hard Time on Planet Earth 11.25 Scrumdown 12.25am Hooperman 12.55 Pick of the Week 1.25 Invisible Man 1.55 ITV Chart Show 2.55 The Look in the Mirror 4.00 Some Call It Jazz 4.30-5.00 Jobfinder

S4C

Starts: 6.00am Early Morning 9.25 Lata In Her Own Voice 10.00 Answering Back 10.45 Land of the Giants 11.40 The Three Stooges 12.00 The Waltons 12.55 Now You're Talking 1.20 O Bedwar Ban 1.30 Bwrw Mlaen 2.00 Equinox 3.00 Adventures 4.00 Tchaikovsky – Fate 5.35 The Idle Class" 6.15 All the Rivers Run II 7.10 Newyddion 7.15 Hapus Dyrfa 7.45 Hel Straeon 8.15 Dechrau Canu, Dechrau Canmol 8.45 Mwy Na Phapur Newydd 9.30 American Football 11.00 Nocturne 12.05 Romance 12.10 American Football 12.40 Messing with the Kid 2.10 Diweddi

RTE 1

Starts: 10.25am Technical Studies 10.50 España Viva 11.15 Service 12.00 A Vous La France 12.25 Russian Language and Peoples 12.50 Market Place 1.20 Little House on the Prairie 2.10 News 2.45 Film: Blood and Sand 4.50 The New Adventures of Black Beauty 5.20 Exploring the Landscape 6.00 The Angelus 6.01-6.30 News

NETWORK 2

Starts: 9.45am Sesame Street 10.45 The Crafty Kids 11.05 Journey to the Centre of the Earth 11.30 The Beatbox 1.30 Head to Toe 2.00 Reaching For the Skies 3.00 Festival: La Cenerentola 5.55 Moving Hearts in Concert 6.55 Nuacht 7.00 Fair City 7.55 News, Four Dubliners 10.05 The Bluemen 10.50-11.25 Sports Special

RADIO 3

6.55am Weather

7.00 Morning Concert: Verdi (Overture, La forza del destino); Refice (Ombra di Nube); Roussel (Divertissement for wind quintet and piano); Ravel (Menuet antique)

7.30 News

7.35 Morning Concert (cont): William Croft (Suite, The Twin Rivals); Léhar (Waltz, Gold and Silver); Astor Piazzolla, arr Benitez (Tango, Verano Porteno): Copland (Suite, The Tender Land)

8.30 News

8.35 Cantatas in Contrast: Last of eight programmes. Bach (Cantata No 65, Sie werden aus Saba alle kommen; Cantata No 11, Was mein Gott will, das g'scheh allzeit)

9.15 A Serious Matter: The final programme celebrating the recordings of Dinu Lipatti. Liszt, arr Busoni (Petrarch Sonnett No 104, Années de pélérinage, 2); Scarlatti (Sonatas in E and D minor, Kk 380/9); Chopin (Waltz in C sharp minor, Op 64 No 2); Schumann (Piano Concerto in A minor)

10.15 Music Weekly: Peter Paul Nash reflects on the Henze Festival

11.00 From the Proms 1990

● CHOICE: Never a complete substitute for the real thing, (i.e. buying a ticket for the Albert Hall and being part of a unique musical experience), these transmissions of recorded Proms none the less offer the kind of compensation that brings a sense of excitement to Sunday morning listening on Radio 3. What is true for all Sundays is especially true this morning, because Rostropovich plays Haydn's Cello Concerto in C. He was the first cellist in the West to record it. The orchestra is the Saito Kinen, under Ozawa, and we also hear the Brahms No 1 and Mozart's Divertimento in D, K136

12.30pm Schubert Songs: Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, baritone, Albert Brendel, piano, perform Der Einsame, D 800; Herbst, D 945; Nacht und Träume, D 827

12.45 Replay: From the BBC sound archives, Julian Huxley's talk about Dr Spooner, first broadcast in 1942

1.00 News

1.05 Your Concert Choice with Paul Gurnery. Chaminade (Concertino for flute and orchestra: Berlin RSO); M. Haydn (Quintet in F: Vienna Philharmonia Quintet); Stravinsky (No Word, The Rake's Progress: Orchestra of St Luke's); Bach (Sonata in D, BWV 1028); Telemann (Magnificat in G)

2.30 Chamber Music from Birmingham: Lindsay String Quartet performs Haydn (Quartet in E flat, Op 64 No 6); Bartók (Quartet No 2); Dvořák (Quartet No 10 in E flat, Op 51), incl 3.15 Interval Reading

4.05 Northern Sinfonia under Steuart Bedford performs Stravinsky (Danses concertantes); Martin (Concerto for seven wind instruments and percussion); Milhaud (L'Apothéose de Molière) (r)

5.00 Soundings: Michael Oliver follows in the footsteps of Gustav Holst

6.00 Beauty for Ashes: Canon John Oates tells the story of St Bride's church in Fleet Street, whose Celtic roots were revealed when it was bombed 50 years ago during the second world war

7.00 Roman Cantatas: The first of two programmes of cantatas which Handel may have heard during his visit to Rome in around 1707. Mancini (Ardea Dorilla); Francesco Gasparini (Quanto sei penosa); Fregiotti (Fille, negl'occhi tuoi: London Baroque under Medlam) (r)

7.30 Henze at the Barbican: The Raft of the Frigate Medusa. Part 1: Embarkation for Disaster. Finchley Children's Music Group under Ronald Corp; BBC Singers under Simon Joly; BBC SO under Ulf Schirmer perform Hans Werner Henze's two-part oratorio. Sung in Desmond Clayton's English version. 8.10 Julian Barnes talks about Géricault's painting, based on the events in Henze's oratorio. 8.30 Part 2: The Ninth Night and the Morning

9.20 Sunday Play: The Basset Table, by Susanna Centlivre. Adapted by Fidelis Morgan (r)

10.50 York Early Music Festival: Ensemble Organum performs the Mass of Tournai in the context of the Pontifical Mass from Avignon

12.00 News 12.05am Close

RADIO 4

(s) Stereo on FM

5.55am Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing; Weather 6.10 Prelude (s) 6.30 News; Morning Has Broken (s) 6.55 Weather

7.00 News 7.10 Sunday Papers 7.15 On Your Farm: Anthony Rosen meets Professor Jaroslav Voracek of the University of Agriculture in Prague 7.40 Sunday, incl 7.55 Weather

8.00 News 8.10 Sunday Papers 8.50 Admiral Sir John Woodward, appeals on behalf of King George's Fund for Sailors 8.55 Weather

9.00 News

9.10 Sunday Papers

9.15 Letter from America by Alistair Cooke (r)

9.30 Morning Service from St Peter's Church, Bloxwich, West Midlands

10.15 The Archers: Omnibus edition

11.15 News Stand: Martin Wainwright reviews the periodicals

11.30 Pick of the Week (s) (r)

12.15 Desert Island Discs: Sue Lawley with the jazz singer Adelaide Hall (s) 12.55 Weather

1.00 The World This Weekend 1.55 Shipping Forecast

2.00 Gardeners' Question Time: Members of the Ingatestone and Fryerning Horticultural Society in Essex put their queries to Dr Stefan Buczacki, Fred Downham and Daphne Ledward. With Clay Jones in the chair

2.30 Sunday Playhouse: The Emperor of Ice-Cream. Bill Morrison's dramatisation of Brian Moore's novel. Stephen Rea plays Gavin Burke who, in Belfast during 1939, abandons his family's republican sympathies and decides to join the ARP (r)

4.00 News; The State in Question: Family Matters. Continuing his exploration of the ideas which will determine the politics of the next decade, John Lloyd reassesses the Beveridge ideal of the welfare state (2 of 4) (r)

4.47 Time for Verse: Carol Ann Duffy visits the Aldeburgh Poetry Festival (s)

5.00 News; Down Your Way: Baroness Seear relives happy memories of her tomboy childhood in Penzance

5.40 Best Avoided: Laurence Alster believes that flying is one of the irritations of modern living (r) 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather

6.00 News

6.15 Feedback: Listeners' comments about BBC programmes and policy (r)

6.30 The Art of Travel: Six programmes in which Annette Kobak invites seasoned nomads to reflect on their travels. Part 2: Redmond O'Hanlon and the Amazon

7.00 The Root of the Matter: Key issues from the perspective of the people involved

7.30 Bookshelf: Nigel Forde investigates the saga of *The Clopton Hercules* (r)

8.00 Loyal and True: Barry Cowan considers the influence and role of the Orange Order in Northern Ireland, 300 years after the Battle of the Boyne

8.45 Uncle Charlie's Genuine Panama Hat: Ray Brown tells the story of the tall, dark stranger who came back to find his family in Yorkshire (r)

9.00 Enquire Within (r)

9.15 The Natural History Programme: Fergus Keeling and Jessica Holm make some ecological resolutions for the New Year (r) 9.59 Weather

10.00 News

10.15 That Reminds Me: The second of six reflections on singers and singing. The soprano Elisabeth Söderström chooses music to illustrate laughter (s)

11.00 Never the Same Again: Jenni Mills traces critical periods in family life. In August 1985, Damien and Debbie boarded a flight for Corfu at Manchester airport. Luckily, they escaped from the burning plane. Their two friends did not (s) (r)

11.30 Seeds of Faith: God and Gothic. Dr George Pattison considers the message that medieval art has for the modern church architect (2 of 4) (s)

12.00-12.30am News, incl 12.20 Weather 12.33 Shipping Forecast

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m;1089kHz/275m;FM-97.6-99.8. Radio 2: FM-88-90.2. Radio 3: 1215kHz/ 247m; FM-90-92.4. Radio 4: 198kHz/1515m;FM-92.4-94.6. Radio 5: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m. World Service: MW 648kHz/463m. Jazz FM 102.2. LBC: 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3. Capital: 1548kHz/194m; FM 95.8. GLR: 1458kHz/206m; FM 94.9; Melody FM 104.9.

SATELLITE

SKY ONE

● Via the Astra and Marco Polo satellites. 6.00am Cricket: Benson and Hedges World Series. First final 11.00 Cricket Highlights 11.30 Joanie Loves Chachi 12.00 That's Incredible 1.00pm Wonder Woman 2.00 WWF Superstars of Wrestling 3.00 Man from Atlantis 4.00 Love Boat 5.00 Small Wonder 5.30 Sky Star Search 6.30 The Simpsons 7.00 21 Jump Street 8.00 The Moneychangers: The first of a three-part mini series 10.30 Cops 11.00 Cricket Highlights 12.00 Falcon Crest 1.00am Pages from Skytext

SKY NEWS

● Via the Astra satellites. News on the hour. 5.30am Target 6.30 The Reporters 9.30 International Business Report Week 10.30 Those Were the Days 11.00 Dayline 11.30 Review '90 – Showbusiness 12.30pm Target 1.30 The Reporters 2.30 Our World 3.30 Review '90 – Showbusiness 4.30 Target 5.00 Live at Five 6.30 The Reporters 7.30 Those Were the Days 8.30 Target 10.30 Those Were the Days 11.30 The Reporters 12.30am Those Were the Days 1.30 Target 2.30 The Reporters 3.30 Beyond 2000 4.30 Beyond 2000

SKY NEWS

● Via the Marco Polo satellite. 5.30am Target 6.30 The Reporters 9.30 International Business Report Week 10.30 Those Were the Days 11.00 Dayline 11.30 Review '90 – Showbusiness 12.30pm Target 1.30 The Reporters 2.00 The Dolmetsch Years – Bach 3.30 Review '90 – Showbusiness 4.30 Those Were the Days 5.00 Collections and Collectors: The Treasures of Rudolf II 6.30 The Reporters 7.30 Wexford Festival Double Bill 10.30 The Dolmetsch Years – Bach 11.30 The Reporters 12.30am Those Were the Days 1.30 Target 2.30 The Reporters 3.30 Beyond 2000 4.30 Beyond 2000

SKY MOVIES

● Via the Astra satellite.
6.00am Showcase
8.00 Fatso (1980): An obese man (Dom DeLuise) decides to diet
10.00 Who Framed Roger Rabbit (1988): When a Hollywood studio boss is murdered, Bob Hoskins's private eye teams up with cartoon actor Roger Rabbit
12.00 White Heat (1949): James Cagney stars as the psychopathic gangster Cody Jarrett
2.00pm Escape to Victory (1981): Prisoners-of-war form a football team. Starring Michael Caine
4.00 The Lighthorsemen (1988): The story of a first world war battle in Palestine which was fought and won by the Australian Lighthorsemen
6.00 Codename: Emerald (1985): A Nazi double agent plots to kidnap a young intelligence lieutenant who holds the plans for the D-day invasion
7.40 Projector
8.00 Beaches (1988): The 30-year friendship between two women (Bette Midler and Barbara Hershey
10.00 Malone (1987): A former CIA agent (Burt Reynolds) unearths a plot in a small town which persuades him to take action one last time
11.30 Purple Hearts (1984): Tale of love and bravery set against the background of the Vietnam war
1.45am Hostage (1986): When terrorists hijack a plane, a team of mercenaries leads the rescue mission
4.00 Party Camp (1986): The comic adventures of a summer camp counsellor. Ends at 5.30

EUROSPORT

● Via the Astra satellite. 6.00am Hour of Power 7.00 Fun Factory 9.00 Trans World Sport 10.00 Basketball 11.00 Sunday Alive: World Swimming Championships; World Cup Skiing 2.00pm Snooker: World Masters 6.00 International Motor Sport 7.00 Snooker 10.00 Motor Sport: Paris-Dakar Rally 10.15 World Swimming Championships 12.15am Motor Sport: Paris-Dakar Rally 12.30 World Cup Skiing

SCREENSPORT

● Via the Astra satellite. 7.00am US College Football 9.00 Polo Master of Masters 10.00 Ice Hockey NHL '91 12.00 Slop-USWA Wrestling 1.00pm Powersports International 2.00 Motor Sport Rallycross 3.00 Table Tennis Dutch European Cup: Holland v Germany 4.00 US College Football 6.00 1991 Paris-Dakar Rally 7.15 Sport en France 7.45 Ski Ballet Gymnastics 8.15 "Go" Dutch Motor Sports 9.45 1991 Paris-Dakar Rally 10.00 Weekend Live US PGA Northern Telecom Open

MTV

● Via the Astra satellite. Twenty-four hours of rock and pop

LIFESTYLE

● Via the Astra satellite. 12.00 Captain Power 12.30pm WKRP in Cincinnati 1.00 The Joan Rivers Show 1.50 Formula One 2.45 Spain Spain International Cuisine 3.00 Wrestling 4.00 Rocky Jones 4.25 Once upon a Brothers Grimm 6.00 The Sell-a-Vision Shopping Channel 8.00 JSTV 10.00 The Sell-a-Vision Shopping Channel 12.00 Satellite Jukebox

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

● Via the Marco Polo satellite.
12.05pm Up Periscope (1959): James Mason undertakes a perilous mission
2.15 Saturday Island (1952): A romantic triangle develops on a desert island
4.00 Bradys on the Move (1989): A motorway development threatens the family home
6.00 Twins (1988): Danny DeVito and Arnold Schwarzenegger
8.00 Maybe Baby (1988): An unplanned pregnancy forces student Molly Ringwald to accept her responsibilities
10.00 The Big Man (1990): Liam Neeson takes part in an illegal boxing match
12.10am Fatal Beauty (1987). An undercover cop (Whoopi Goldberg) goes after a consignment of cocaine
2.05 Body Double (1984): A hooker (Melanie Griffith) is used as bait to catch a killer. Ends at 4.10

THE SPORTS CHANNEL

● Via the Marco Polo satellite. 9.30am Sportsdesk 10.00 Scottish Football Magazine 11.00 This is the Sports Channel 12.00 Best of US Motorcycle Racing 1.00pm Sportsdesk 1.15 Italian Football 3.30 Boxing 5.00 Supercross 6.00 Sportsdesk 6.30 World Masters Snooker 7.30 Sportsdesk 8.00 Scottish Football 10.00 Sportsdesk 10.30 World Masters Snooker 12.00 Sportsdesk 12.30am Scottish Football

THE POWER STATION

● Via the Marco Polo satellite. 6.00am Twenty hours of rock and pop

RADIO 1

FM Stereo and MW. 5.00am Jenny Costello 7.00 The Bruno and Liz Breakfast Show 9.30 Dave Lee Travis 12.30pm Pick of the Pops: Top 20 of 1965, 1974 and 1986 3.00 Philip Schofield 5.00 The Complete UK Top 40 7.00 Anne Nightingale's Request Show 9.00 Andy Kershaw 11.00-2.00am John Peel

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. 4.00am David Allan 6.00 Graham Knight 7.30 Don Maclean: Good Morning Sunday 9.05 Richard Baker with Melodies for You 11.00 Desmond Carrington: Radio 2 All-Time Greats 2.00pm Benny Green 3.00 Alan Dell with Sounds Easy 4.00 Palm Court Time 4.30 Sing Something Simple 5.00 Charlie Chester 7.00 Moira's Music 8.00 Victor Silvester Orchestra 8.30 Sunday Half Hour 9.00 Alan Keith with Your Hundred Best Tunes 10.00 The Radio 2 Arts Programme 12.05am Encore with Dave Gelly 1.00-4.00 Colin Berry with Night Ride

RADIO 5

6.00am World Service: Newsdesk 6.30 Meridian Reports 7.00 News and 24 Hours 7.30 Sunday Edition, incl 7.30 News 8.00 News and Sport 8.30 News 9.00 Sport 9.02 This Family Business, incl 10.00 Sport 10.30 Education Matters 11.00 Soundwaves (r) 11.30 Labour of Love (r) 12.00 Sport, followed by an interlude 12.15pm Desert Island Discs (as Radio 4) 1.00 Sport 1.03 A Vous La France! French for beginners 1.30 España Viva: Spanish for beginners 2.00 Sport 2.03 As Radio 2 3.00 Football Extra: Barclays League match between Everton and Manchester City 5.00 Sport 5.02 As Radio 4 5.40 Open University: Into the Open – the First Hurdle 6.00 Sport 6.10 Open University: Open Forum 6.30 As Radio 4 7.00 As Radio 1 9.00 Nightpoets 9.30 Across the Line, incl 10.00 Sport 11.00 Sport 11.05 World Service 12.00-12.05am Sport

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. 5.00am German Features 5.36 News in German, Headlines in English and French 5.47 Press Review 5.52 Financial Review 5.56 Weather and Travel News 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 Londres Matin 6.00 News 7.09 24 Hours; News Summary 7.30 From Our Own Correspondent 7.50 Write On... 8.00 News 8.09 Words of Faith 8.15 Music for a While with Richard Baker 9.00 News 9.09 Review of the British Press 9.15 The Great Divide 9.30 Financial Review 9.40 Book Choice 9.45 Society Today 10.01 Science in Action 10.30 In Praise of God 11.00 News 11.09 News About Britain 11.15 Short Story. The Silver Toe Rings 11.30 Midi Magazine 12.01pm Play of the Week: The Chekhov Vaudeville 1.00 News and 24 Hours on Sunday 1.45 Sports Roundup 2.01 1992 and the European Vision 2.30 Anything Goes 3.00 Newsreel 3.15 Concert Hall 4.00 News 4.09 News About Britain 4.15 BBC English 4.30 News and Features in German 5.00 News 5.09 Book Choice 5.15 Club 648 5.30 Londres Soir 6.15 BBC English 6.30 News and Features in German 7.54 News in German 8.00 News 8.09 Personal View 8.25 Words of Faith 8.30 Ned Sherrin's Counterpoint 9.01 Sports Roundup 9.15 Music for a While with Richard Baker 10.00 Newshour 11.00 News 11.05 Words of Faith 11.10 Book Choice 11.15 Letter from America 11.30 1992 and the European Vision 12.00 Newsdesk 12.30am In Praise of God 1.01 With Great Pleasure 1.45 Instruments of the Orchestra 2.00 News 2.09 Review of the British Press 2.15 Andy Kershaw's World of Music 2.30 Composer of the Month 3.00 News 3.09 News About Britain 3.15 Good Books 3.30 Anything Goes 3.59 Weather 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Letter from America 4.45 News and Press Review in German

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Pupils to be penalised for bad spelling in GCSE exams

By David Tytler, Education Editor

CHILDREN will lose marks for poor spelling in all GCSE examinations this summer, Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, announced yesterday, even though the move is opposed by examining groups and by his advisers.

Previously, examiners have accepted inaccurate spelling, bad writing and incorrect grammar in all papers except English. Mr Clarke has now ruled that up to 5 per cent of a pupil's marks may be deducted in all subjects for poor spelling.

The School Examinations and Assessment Council, which had been asked to ensure that standards of spelling were taken into account in the marking of all GCSE papers, had told Mr Clarke that this could not be done before 1992. In a strongly-worded letter rejecting that, Mr Clarke said: "I *am very disappointed* at the council's advice that more cannot be done to secure effective assessment of spelling in the 1991 examinations ... The course of action proposed does very little to allay my concerns.

"I do not see why it is *impossible for the groups*, now, to ask examiners to deduct up to 5 per cent of marks for spelling that is clearly poor."

He suggested that candidates should be penalised for consistently misspelling basic words or frequently-used specialist vocabulary to such an extent that the ability to communicate the understanding of the subject was weakened. The council, he said, should refine the requirements in time for the 1992 examinations.

The council had recommended that from 1994 GCSE papers should carry the warning: "Use good English and present your work clearly using accurate spelling. If you do not do this, you risk hiding some of your subject abilities. This could mean a lower grade."

Mr Clarke said yesterday "I am concerned at the decline in the standard of spelling amongst young people and I am anxious that everyone in the world of education should take serious steps to improve those standards. Good spelling is essential to good communication. Good spelling should become one significant measure of a good education."

The move to tighten spelling standards follows the report from the school inspectors earlier this week that reading standards in one in five English primary schools are poor. Jack Straw, Labour's education spokesman, said: "As with reading, this announcement is a further admission of years of government complacency and failure. If people misspell to the point where they cannot be properly understood, then this should be taken into account in examinations. Why has the government been tolerating such apparent sloppiness over the past 11 years?"

The examination council said it would consult the examining boards immediately before replying. However, John Edmundson, secretary of the GCSE joint council, which represents the bodies that set the exams, said: "The boards have always been concerned that candidates are treated justly and fairly and are not penalised for the same mistake across the curriculum. The boards will now look to find a way of incorporating the 5 per cent penalty to ensure that candidates are not unfairly treated."

Mr Clarke has also said that the use of computerised spelling checkers in examinations should be banned. The Southern examining group, which was going to allow computer spell-checks to be used in the GCSE this year, will now consider its position.

Mr Clarke said that special arrangements would be allowed for children with difficulties such as dyslexia.

Tory reforms, page 2

Petrol panic: motorists filling every available container with petrol at a Baghdad garage as Iraq, one of the world's biggest oil producers, moved closer to war

Blue moons and red cigars in dawn display

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

IF YOU face west in the early hours of tomorrow morning and look just above the horizon, you might see strange blue and red moons and lights resembling large cigars and whizzing bullets.

What you will be seeing will be the biggest lightshow and experiment on earth, or rather in the magnetic fields encircling the earth, where scientists will be exploding clouds of chemicals.

Researchers hope that the experiments, which are being coordinated by Nasa and the US Air Force through the combined release and radiation effects satellite, will unleash artificial auroras as charged lithium and barium particles trigger radiation flips between the poles.

Andrew Coates, whose team at the Mullard space science laboratory at University College London have experiments on board the satellite, said that some of the heavenly high lights should be visible from Britain.

The Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, said that releases of barium, which turns blue in the sun's ultra violet light, are planned for 0218 and 0258 GMT tomorrow. The second release, and a red lithium release planned for 0705 GMT, might also be seen from Britain.

The best opportunity will, however, be next Wednesday at 0348 GMT when another lithium discharge is planned .. beyond the same, blue horizon.

Saddam talks of showdown

Continued from page 1

They believed that there was even a possibility of a delegation headed by Roland Dumas, the French foreign minister. Sources said that the Swiss embassy intended to stay open until at least until January 15.

Remaining Western diplomats and Iraqi sources said they were sceptical about Sênor Pérez de Cuéllar's chances of reaching any kind of agreement with the Iraqi leader. "The Iraqis have not moved one inch on the question of withdrawal from Kuwait and Saddam's speech today confirms that," one diplomat said. "The new UN plan talks about US forces leaving Saudi Arabia if Iraq leaves Kuwait, but Bush won't buy that."

It appeared from the general mood in the Iraqi capital that the secretary- general's mission had only a smallchance of success unless there were an about-turn in policy from either Baghdad or Washington in the next few days.

Iraqis continued to show how little they know or could expect from the gathering storm. "We are sure that this will be no worse than the eight-year war we fought against Iran," Tariq Zentar, a taxi-driver, said. "We have faith in our leader Saddam Hussein not to lead us down the path of war without being sure that we will achieve victory in the end. We are not afraid of America's bombs we will rely on our supreme faith and our military commanders not to let us down," he said.

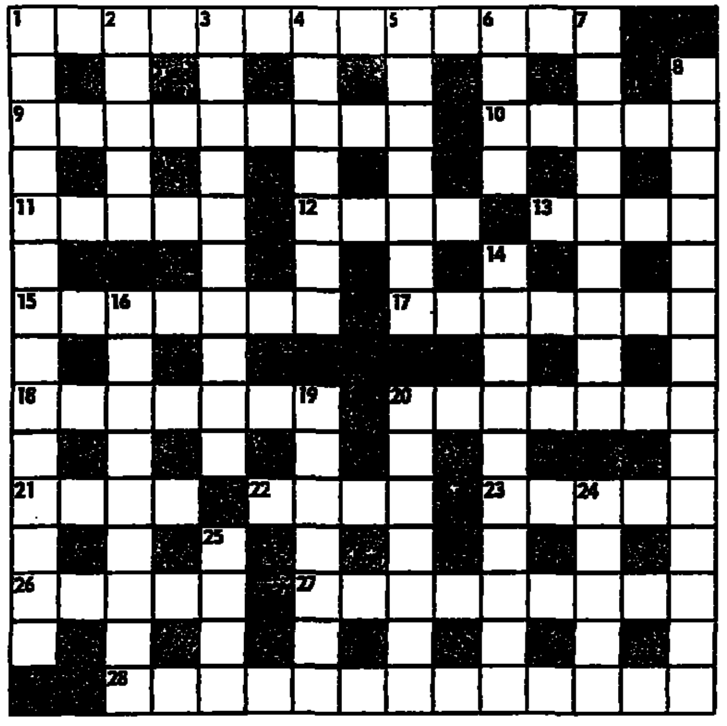
Nonetheless, many Iraqis confessed to being frightened about the lack of hard information concerning the size and skill of the UN coalition force facing them.

● LONDON: John Major, the prime minister, will meet James Baker, the US Secretary of State, tomorrow to finalise contingency plans for fighting a war in the Gulf as hopes fade for a peaceful withdrawal of Iraqi troops (Sheila Gunn writes).

Mr Baker will break off his return flight to the United States to discuss the progress of the latest diplomatic initiatives with the prime minister at RAF Alconbury near Mr Major's home. On Monday Mr Major flies to Paris for final talks with President Francois Mitterand before the UN deadline of midnight, Kuwaiti time, on January 15. The prime minister will open the Commons debate on Tuesday when MPs and peers are expected to support overwhelmingly military action to force Iraqi troops out of Kuwait.

Mr Major said in Edinburgh yesterday that he was gloomy and depressed by Saddam's refusal to withdraw from Kuwait."But there is still time for him to do so at the last moment," he added.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,501



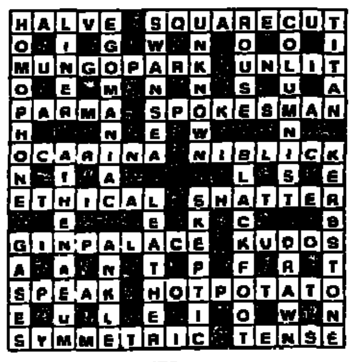
ACROSS

1 She modelled with Tessa and Maud, working under the latter's aegis (6,7).
9 Book about married woman who was given a golden handshake (4,5).
10 Regard the round stern (5).
11 'oly light enveloping American mission (5).
12 Approve of love with a girl (4).
13 Flower found on the course (4).
15 Take into account the letters in first down clue (7).
17 It's remarkable how the Spanish stick around (7).
18 Designations used on pencils with silver case (7).
20 Shakespearian character's hard speech cut (7).
21 About finished (4).
22 Student caught with a dictionary (4).
23 Those funny national characteristics (5).
26 Bury, where the season starts late (5).
27 Belief that's about tax in till (9).
28 *Jervis Pendleton, alias the* Crane-fly (5,4,4).

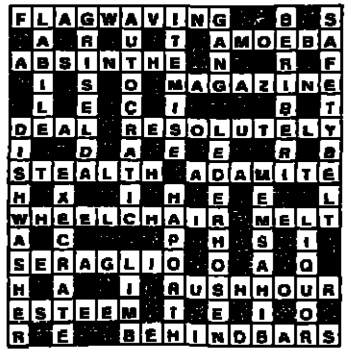
DOWN

1 To celebrate moving on, take him a gift (4,1,5,2,2).
2 Spanish gentleman upset an Italian lady (5).
3 Gobbledygook from taciturn old boy coming over on plane (5-5).
4 Young Jeremy Fisher produces a story about refugee with nothing (7).
5 Keep up as units assemble (7).
6 A new number to be put up shortly (4).
7 Lorna's accepted the inducement to contribute (2,4,3).
8 Duke on American navy ship is without English money (14).
14 Tailor — he's undernourished (10).
16 Called round on one occasion in vain (9).
19 Peevish Marx has you in first place, not second (7).
20 Spaniard made a cache in the past, concealing some money (7).
24 Swell chap given a welcome (5).
25 Raised the money, we hear (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,495



Solution to Puzzle No 18,500



PARKER DUOFOLD *A prize of a superb Parker Duofold International Fountain Pen, with an 18 carat gold nib and fully guaranteed for the lifetime of the original owner will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.*

Name/Address...

....

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

ABOMASUM
a. An arithmetical conundrum
b. Hell
c. The fourth stomach

ERF
a. A worker elf
b. A garden plot
c. Electrical Radio Frequency

REFEL
a. To refute
b. An underskin
c. An Anglo-Saxon letter

VARVE
a. To joke
b. A layer of clay
c. A labourer's smock

Answers on page 13

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day dial 0898 500 followed by the appropriate code

Greater London	701
Kent Surrey Sussex	702
Dorset Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts Gloucs Avon Soms	705
Berks,Bucks Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times

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C London (within N & S Circs)	731
M-ways/roads M4-M1	732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T	733
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M23	734
M-ways/roads M23-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736

National traffic and roundworks

National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times

Concise Crossword, page 13

Christmas Jumbo solution, 14

The winners of last Saturday's competition are R Buchanan, Gruf House, Orphir, Orkney; A M S Horkend, Mansfield Road, London; A J Chanot, Northampton Lane South, Moulton, Northampton; N Stratton, Greenfield Gardens, London; A Boys-Stones, Randle House, Corbridge, Northumberland.

WEATHER

A bright start for much of the country with scattered showers in many northern and western areas, becoming heavy and thundery at times. Some snow, particularly over Scotland, Northern Ireland and northern England. Southern parts of England will be cloudy at first with showery outbreaks of rain. All areas becoming brighter and drier in the afternoon with showers dying out in many eastern and inland areas. Outlook: mainly dry and bright but colder.

ABROAD

MIDDAY: t=thunder, d=drizzle; fg=fog; s=sun; sl=sleet, sn=snow, f=fair, c=cloud, r=rain

	C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	17	63	s	Madrid	11	52	f
Akrotiri	18	64	f	Majorca	16	61	f
Alex'dria	19	66	f	Malaga	17	63	s
Algiers	20	68	s	Malta	16	61	c
Amst'dm	8	46	f	Melb'rne	37	99	c
Athens	17	63	s	Mexico C*	17	63	c
Bahrain	18	64	c	Miami*	26	79	f
Barcelna	17	63	s	Milan	4	39	d
Belgrade	15	59	s	Moscow	4	39	c
Berlin	8	46	f	Munich	12	54	r
Bermuda*	22	72	f	Nairobi	26	79	f
Biarritz	10	50	r	Naples	14	57	f
Borde'x	10	50	r	N Delhi	18	64	s
Brussels	9	48	c	N York*	4	39	f
Budapst	7	45	s	Nice	13	55	c
B Aires*	30	86	s	Oslo	-7	19	c
Cairo	29	84	f	Paris	10	50	f
Cape Tn	22	72	s	Peking	0	32	s
C'blanca	19	66	s	Perth	28	82	s
Chicago*	1	30	c	Prague	10	50	r
Cologne	8	46	r	Reykjvik	-6	21	s
C'phagn	7	45	f	Rhodes	17	63	s
Corfu	14	57	s	Rio de J	26	79	s
Dublin	6	43	f	Rome	16	61	f
Dubrovnik	16	61	s	Salzburg	10	50	f
Faro	17	63	f	S F'nsco*	9	48	f
Florence	16	61	f	Santiago*	32	90	s
Frankfurt	9	48	r	S Paulo*	25	77	c
Funchal	16	61	c	Seoul	-1	30	c
Geneva	13	55	c	Sing'por	31	88	f
Gibraltar	17	63	s	St'kholm	-3	27	c
Helsinki	-6	21	c	Strasb'rg	11	52	r
Hong K	16	61	r	Sydney	31	88	c
Innsbrck	8	46	f	Tangier	16	61	s
Istanbul	8	46	f	Tel Aviv	16	61	s
Jeddah	29	84	s	Tenerife	20	68	s
Karachi	21	70	s	Tokyo	11	52	f
L Palmas	21	70	s	Tunis	17	63	s
Le Tquet	9	48	f	Valencia	17	63	s
Lisbon	12	54	r	Venice	9	48	c
Locarno	4	39	c	Vienna	6	43	f
L Angels*	14	57	s	Warsaw	8	46	c
Luxembg	7	45	r	Wash'ton*	7	45	f
Luxor	22	72	s	Zurich	10	50	c

* denotes figures are latest available

AROUND BRITAIN

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	1.0	.02	5	41	cloudy
Anglesey	4.4	.04	8	46	thundr
Aviemore	0.4	.22	3	37	snow
Belfast	2.0	.22	3	37	snow
Birmingham	4.9	.31	7	45	hail
Blackpool	4.6	.20	7	45	hail
Bournemouth	0.8	.61	10	50	cloudy
Brighton	0.1	.37	8	46	cloudy
Bristol	2.7	.43	9	48	shower
Cardiff	2.6	.15	8	46	hail
Cromer	3.4	.35	7	45	bright
Douglas	2.1	.21	6	43	bright
Edinburgh	1.7	.26	5	41	sleet
Exmouth	2.0	.35	9	48	bright
Falmouth	2.6	.29	10	50	sunny
Folkestone	0.2	.28	10	50	shower
Glasgow	0.5	.37	5	41	hail
Hastings	-	.31	11	52	cloudy
Jersey	-	.28	10	50	cloudy
Kinloss	0.3	.02	4	39	sleet
Leeds	3.6	.33	7	45	shower
London	1.5	.26	10	50	bright
Lowestoft	1.0	.09	8	46	shower
Manchester	4.7	.21	6	43	sunny

Thursday's figures are latest available

LIGHTING-UP TIMES

TODAY
London 4.16 pm to 8.02 am
Bristol 4.26 pm to 8.11 am
Edinburgh 4.05 pm to 8.37 am
Manchester 4.15 pm to 8.19 am
Penzance 4.43 pm to 8.17 am

YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain, s, sun

	C	F			C	F	
Belfast	3	37	f	Guernsey	8	46	c
B'rmgham	3	37	sl	Inverness	1	34	c
Blackpool	6	43	f	Jersey	9	48	f
Bristol	6	43	f	London	7	45	r
Cardiff	6	43	f	M'nchster	4	39	c
Edinburgh	5	41	r	Newcastle	6	43	f
Glasgow	6	43	c	R'nldsway	7	45	f

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	11.27	5.9	11.51	6.0
Aberdeen	11.06	3.6	11.34	3.5
Avonmouth	4.20	10.2	4.51	10.4
Belfast	8.34	3.0	8.56	3.0
Cardiff	4.05	9.6	4.36	9.8
Devonport	2.31	4.6	3.00	4.5
Dover	8.39	5.4	9.12	5.5
Falmouth	2.01	4.4	2.30	4.3
Glasgow	10.29	4.1	10.44	3.9
Harwich	9.15	3.2	9.43	3.3
Holyhead	8.06	4.6	8.34	4.6
Hull	4.41	5.9	4.07	6.1
Ilfracombe	3.21	7.2	3.48	7.3
King's Lynn	3.48	4.9	4.13	5.2
Leith			12.18	4.6

Tide measured in metres: 1m=3.2808ft.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Thursday: Highest day temp Sandown, Isle of Wight, 12C (54F); lowest day max Glenlivet, Grampian, -5C (23F); highest rainfall Ross-on-Wye, Hereford and Worcester, 0.75 in; highest sunshine Skegness, Lincolnshire, 5.3 hr

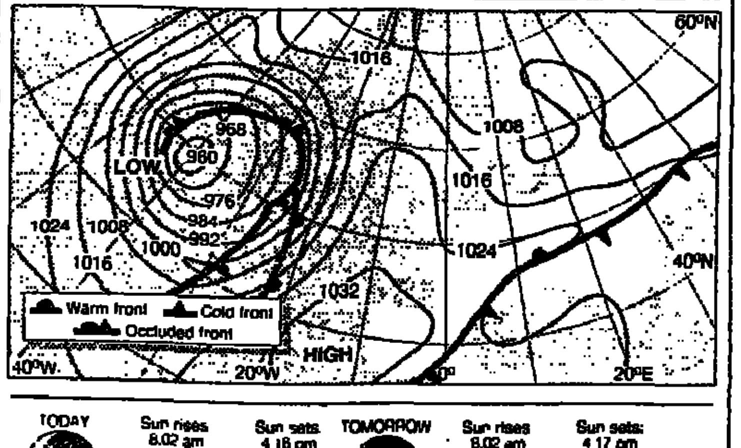
MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp max 6 am to 6 pm, 7C (45F), min 6 pm to 6 am, 2C (36F). Rain 24hr to 6 pm, 0.031 in. Sun 24 hr to 6 pm, 3.2 hr.

GLASGOW

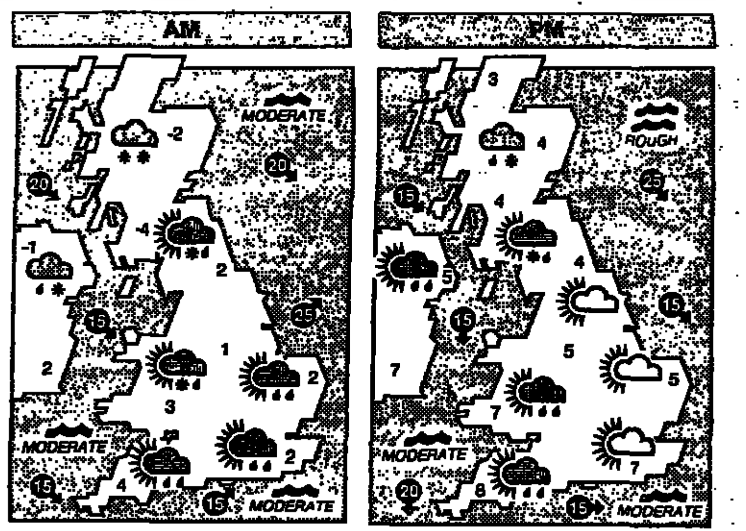
Yesterday: Temp max 6 am to 6 pm, 7C (45F), min 6 pm to 6 am, 1C (34F). Rain 24hr to 6 pm, 0.04 in. Sun 24 hr to 6 pm, nil.

NOON TODAY



TODAY	Sun rises 8.02 am	Sun sets 4.16 pm	TOMORROW	Sun rises 8.02 am	Sun sets: 4.17 pm
	Moon rises 5.41 am	Moon sets 12.51 pm		Moon rises: 6.34 am	Moon sets: 1.41 pm

AM / PM



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هكذا من الإصل

هكذا من الأصل

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SPORT

SUMMARY

Making waves

NICK Gillingham (above), the British swimmer, put a year of stress and injury behind him yesterday and took the bronze medal in the 200 metres breaststroke at the world championships in Perth.

The race was won by Mike Barrowman, of the United States, who broke his own world record with a time of 2min 11.23sec. Second place went to Norbert Rozsa, the Hungarian who beat Adrian Moorhouse in the 100 metres on Monday .... Page 28

SKIING

Test of nerve

WINNING the world championship is one thing, winning the Hahnenkamm, the great downhill challenge of the season, is another. Brian James previews the race which the skiiers themselves regard as the greatest test of their skills .... Page 26

RUGBY UNION

Forward step

THE Courage Clubs Championship resumes today with Wayne Shelford, the former All Black, making his first appearance in the competition for Northampton against Leicester. David Hands reports .... Page 25

TENNIS

Open and shut

MARY JOE Fernandez (above), the No. 1 seed, was beaten in the quarter-finals of the New South Wales Open yesterday, but it was the news that Pete Sampras is likely to withdraw from the Australian Open, which begins on Monday, that attracted most attention .... Page 24

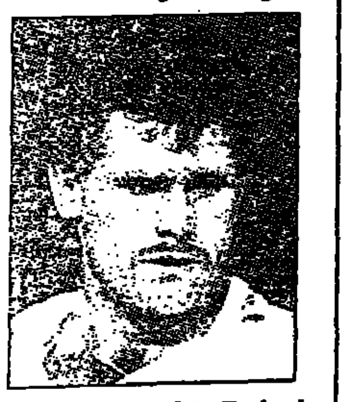
RUGBY LEAGUE

Final hopes

THE Regal Trophy final between Warrington and Bradford Northern at Headingley tomorrow will be no more than a formality if the teams play to form. Fortunately for Northern, finals in this competition seldom turn out as expected .... Page 25

CRICKET

Tour mystery



NO MEMBER of the England party left for Australia with higher hopes than Robin Smith (above) yet as the tour enters its final phase, he is struggling to find his form. Alan Lee considers the reasons .... Page 24

RACING

Desert weight

DAVID Elsworth mounts a strong challenge on the weekend's top prizes in England and Ireland. Desert Orchid attempts to defy top weight of 12 stone in the £45,000 Victor Chandler Handicap Chase at Ascot while Riverhead and Imperial Brush represent the Hampshire trainer in The Ladbroke, Ireland's richest handicap hurdle, at Leopardstown .... Page 26

Bates lashes out at League

By Dennis Signy

KEN Bates, the chairman of Chelsea, yesterday described the Football League's record £105,000 fine on the club for irregular payments to three players as "a travesty of justice".

Before unleashing his attack on the League, Bates said that Chelsea might consider an appeal when they received from the League a statement of the reasons for the decision. He added that the club might call for a judicial review in the High Court into the way the League conducted its affairs.

Bates, who was accompanied by Colin Hutchinson, the managing director, and Peter Taylor, a solicitor, said: "Even on the assumption that the decision was correct, and I stress the word assumption, it was excessive to the extent of being vicious and vindictive."

The fine was announced yesterday after a five-hour enquiry by a three-man commission in Manchester on Thursday. Chelsea were found guilty of breaching League regulation 67(2) through payments to Graham Roberts, Kerry Dixon and Gareth Hall. Two of the offences concerned the club's former defender, Graham Roberts, who was sold to West Bromwich Albion for £200,000 this season.

The League said that Chelsea had been fined £25,000 for a breach of regulation 50, which covers "inducements to sign paid to players or their families". A fine of £75,000 was also imposed for a breach of regulation 67(2) in Roberts's case. This regulation covers players' contract registration and terms. Chelsea were fined £1,500 for breaching regulation 67(2) in respect of Dixon, and £3,500 in respect of Hall.

The charges relating to Roberts were believed to involve irregular payments of about £100,000 following his £450,000 transfer from Glasgow Rangers in August 1988. Dixon is alleged to have received a £10,000 loan in contravention of League rules.

Arthur Sandford, the League chief executive, said the £105,000 fine would deter other clubs from making irregular payments to players. He said: "I am sure this will act as a warning to other clubs not to get involved in this sort of thing."

Sandford sat with Gordon McKeag, a Newcastle director, and Ian Stott, the Oldham chairman, on the commission. He said: "Each case is decided on its own merits and the commission decided the size of the fine was appropriate."

In previous cases, clubs have been relegated or even expelled from the League. Swindon Town were demoted two divisions last summer after being found guilty of contravening League regulations on payments — amounting to about £124,000 over five years — but were restored to the second division on appeal.

Swindon had little to say yesterday. "We do not wish to comment on the Chelsea decision as it is considered a matter for the Football League," Peter Day, the Swindon chief executive, said.

Sandford maintained that completely different circumstances surrounded the two cases. "There are many distinguishing features between this case and that of Swindon," he said. "Demotion was not considered this time."

Bates told a press conference in the trophy room at Stamford Bridge that the only witness the League had was Roberts, Chelsea's former captain and player-coach, whose evidence was oral. "If we are guilty of these allegations, then so is Mr Roberts," Bates said. "I believe he is a tainted witness."

Bates said that Roberts had instituted legal proceedings against Chelsea, which were defended by the club. Chelsea, in turn, had a counter-claim that Roberts was allegedly in breach of his contract as player-coach. "I intend to pursue that counter-claim vigorously," Bates said. He alleged that Roberts's lawyers had offered to drop the whole proceedings and forget the matter if the player was given a free transfer.

Bates added: "Some people would suggest, to put it delicately, that this was undue pressure. Since Chelsea decided we had nothing to hide, we ignored that suggestion." He said Chelsea were still convinced they were 100 per cent innocent and he refuted suggestions by questioners of any tax implications for the club.

He condemned the disciplinary procedures of the League and said he had been advised in Manchester in December by David Dent, the League secretary, and Bill Fox, the president, that the club should plead guilty. That, he said, was an extraordinary event in advance of a commission which Fox might have been involved in.

Bates also claimed that the League had "done a deal" with Roberts in saying that he would not be charged if he gave evidence. "The only witness was a disaffected former Chelsea employee with a High Court action on both sides," he said.

Bates was highly critical of the League officers and described the whole League set-up as fragmented and archaic, with offices in Lytham St Annes, the chief executive 150 miles away in Nottingham, and the commercial department in London. He called it a lot of authority without responsibility.

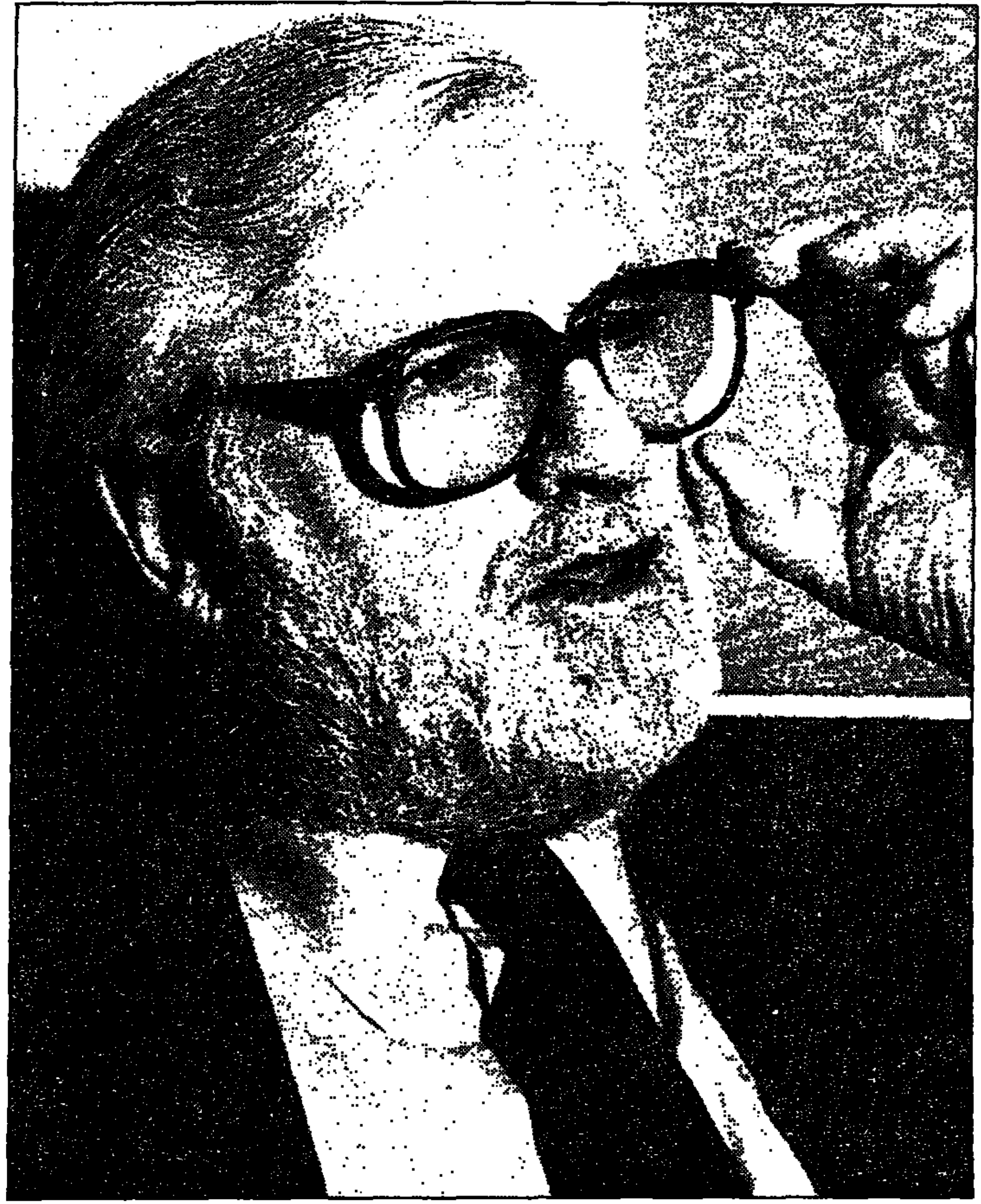
Chelsea intend to press for an independent review committee. Holding up the League handbook, Bates said: "It needs to be thrown out of the window and started with a fresh piece of paper." He said disciplinary procedures should be taken away from the League office and given to an independent authority which did not comprise members of the management committee or anyone attached to a club.

On his own position as a member of the management committee, he said: "I take on board this was doubly embarrassing for both parties." He intended, though, to remain a member of the committee as he felt he could do more good for football from the inside.

● The previous record fine was also imposed on Chelsea — £75,000 after a riot at their ground following a match against Middlesbrough in 1988.

Weekend preview, page 25

ANTHONY PHELPS



Controlled anger: Bates, the Chelsea chairman, holds court at a press conference at Stamford Bridge

Controversial natural organiser with a passion for the game

By Clive White

THE word controversial might have been invented with Ken Bates in mind. Ever since he organised a summer tour of Rhodesia by Oldham Athletic at the height of that country's dispute with Britain over sovereignty, he has clashed repeatedly with authority, the media and anyone in football who wanted to put their dukes up.

A fellow director, upon his resignation, once said of Bates: "He believes in a board of two, with one member absent." In his defence, Bates has said: "I am a natural organiser. I don't want to run things, but I end up saying: 'For Christ's sake get out of the way and let me get on with it'."

Yet despite the dogma and the gruff exterior, he remains a man passionately in love with the game, and in particular Chelsea, determined that neither will be wronged, only over his dead body. "I don't enjoy confrontation," he says, "but I do believe that if something is worthwhile then you have to battle for it."

If his enemies far outweigh his friends, many would have to concede that he does argue confidently, more often than not from a position of sound logic. He is respected as much as he is feared. In spite of falling foul of Football League regulations, Bates is one man who Bill Fox, the president of the League, is still pleased to have on his side as a fellow committee member.

"He is one of those people who has plenty of brilliant ideas," Fox said yesterday. "I think he is a valuable member because he provokes thought ... I've never found him to be a devious man."

That was not how some people greeted his return to the management committee last June, when he took over Reg Burr's seat following Millwall's relegation. Yet he was voted back, in preference to Ron Noades, of Crystal Palace, by nine votes to three. For a man who, by his own admission, cannot stand committees — "They are for passing resolutions, not for getting things done" — Bates has spent considerable on them.

As a management committee member, he was instrumental in devising the Simod Cup, a money-spinner for clubs however much hated by the quality-conscious media, and for campaigning for the return of a more lucrative 22-member first division. On the debit side, he was partly responsible for the £460,000 loss made two years ago by the League's ill-fated centenary celebrations committee, of which he was chairman.

Bates's tough stance on the matter of televised football helped lead to more profitable contracts than the game had ever dreamed of, though he laments the missed opportunity when the League awarded its contract to independent television in 1987. He played a key role in securing for the League the £13.5 million three-year sponsorship by Barclays Bank, and has won lucrative sponsorship deals for Chelsea.

He has yet, though, to win the biggest battle of all, that of safeguarding the future of Stamford Bridge, the home of Chelsea Football Club. His stubborn resistance to the threat against the ground has endeared him to the same supporters whom it was his intention to enclose with electrified fencing in 1985 to prevent "the scum" from reaching the pitch.

It was also on behalf of supporters nationwide that he complained vigorously last May that 35,000 FA Cup final tickets were again going to the "upper crust nobs".

"It is the greatest game in the world," he said recently. "It is also the most frustrating, exasperating, infuriating, desolating game. But there is nothing else."

Singing songs less smutty and silly

SIMON BARNES
ON SATURDAY

The year's great event takes place in Cardiff in April. In terms of exoticism, at least, there is nothing that can touch it: how could anyone match the Japanese women's rugby team? An awesome prospect, especially as New Zealand have just confirmed they will be sending a team of female All Blacks. The event is the women's rugby World Cup and there are ten acceptors thus far — England, Wales, Spain, Italy, Netherlands, Sweden, Japan, New Zealand, the United States and Canada. The organisers are hoping for two more sides, and are waiting for confirmation from France and, improbably, the Soviet Union.

One imagines that such an event must be taking place over a number of dead bodies but, in fact, I hear that the Rugby Football Union has been "great". The game has been growing apace from absolutely nothing: 12 teams five years ago, 92 today. Differences between the men's game and the women's game: the songs are better sung and non-smutty, and you get your hangover on Monday morning rather than Sunday. The press officer for the World Cup is called Alice Cooper: no connection, one assumes, with the singer of *No More Mr Nice Guy*. There will be no Australian side at the World Cup. Aussie ladies don't play. Not tough enough, I suppose.

● *More on exotic women, and let us turn our attention to Katarina Witt, the German skater. Exciting the passions has always been a central part of the lady's repertoire but she didn't bargain for Harry Veltman III, a 46-year-old from California. Witt is presently touring America with an ice show co-starring Brian Boitano. During her "Springtime Ballet" solo, Veltman III threw a bundle of letters on to the ice: bundles containing reams and reams of demented sexual ramblings. He was kept at Denver General Hospital on a "mental health hold" and then taken to jail.*

Mean streak

Sydney Cricket Ground now employs two specialist policemen at the big one-day games. These are officially termed the Streaker Police. They are posted one on each side of the ground, and their responsibilities begin and end at spotting incipient streaks. The security measures, even without these two specialists, are awe-inspiring: 107 video cameras cover the ground and are monitored by a staff of five senior coppers. The system cost £350,000 to install.

At Melbourne Cricket Ground, security staff have been armed with shotguns in their attempt to prevent vandalism. A police spokesman said: "I thought they'd just have revolvers." Cricket is a tough game in Australia, even if you are not playing for England.

Banner clanger

It seems AC Milan have been in trouble with the Italian Football Association because of an apparent intervention in Middle East politics. "Welcome back, Gadaffi," a banner at San Siro stadium said as Milan played Parma. The banner was confiscated by police, and the disciplinary committee summoned the club to answer for the crime of displaying a banner "containing a phrase of political implication".

But it is all a dreadful misunderstanding. The banner-waver was not addressing the Libyan leader but a fat man who wears a tri-coloured sombrero and bangs a drum at AC Milan's games. His real name is Piero Bernazzoli Negri but he possesses the nickname of Gadaffi. He seems to be one of that traditional band of amiable idiots who associate themselves with football clubs. Lord knows how he got his nickname but he has followed the club for 30 years. He was seriously ill over the summer and missed the opening of the season. He made his long-awaited return at the Parma match and was greeted by his well-merited banner.

Silent shuffle

More on sport and the Middle East. Muhammad Ali made a trip to Iraq before Christmas, and returned with 15 hostages. As with every public appearance Ali makes, there was more concern about his physical condition. Some reports said he was communicating through hand signals.

This was bizarrely explained by his PR man, Arthur Morrison, who told the American magazine, *Sports Illustrated*: "Ali has spoken many times. He chose a vow of silence out of respect for the hostages until he had met with Iraqi officials." Ali's wife, who did not go on the trip, later explained that Ali had run out of the medication he needs to regulate his condition, and was eight days without it. "From what I understand, he is very, very tired."

Golden retriever

Betting and brewing are the traditional boom industries of recession, but maybe the new way forward is to work out your frustrations by blasting away at golf balls at a driving range. That is clearly the strategy thought up by an importer of carnations, a record producer and an interior designer — a triumvirate which will open an up-market driving range, costing £1.3 million, in New Malden, Surrey, next month. You hammer your ball into the far distance, and it will be returned to you via an ingenious system of water pumps. The whole thing sounds positively Dante-esque to me.

A far better system was in use at Saunton, a course in Devon. Wooden benches dotted about the course commemorate the name of Rikki, for Rikki *was* the system. Rikki was a cocker spaniel who possessed a deep and abiding love of golf balls. His great pleasure in life was to ferret about for lost balls, which he would return, beaming. They were invariably undamaged by his soft mouth. Rikki was in action at Saunton for 13 years and, in that time, he retrieved 25,000 balls. Their re-sale, through the club shop, provided cash for lessons for young golfers, and for the benches.

Shot driver becomes rally's latest victim

THE death of a lorry driver yesterday as he drove through a village controlled by the Malian army brought the number of fatalities since the Paris to Dakar rally started 12 years ago to 27. Charles Cabannes, aged 37, was on his way to Gao in Mali from Tillia in Niger when the shooting occurred, for reasons unknown, at In Kadaouane.

There could have been more casualties when two of the top Citroens in the rally burst into flames early in the 690km-ninth stage but fortunately both drivers — including the former winner, Jacky Ickx, of Belgium — and their co-drivers escaped unhurt. With the first mishap, 99km into the stage, went Ickx's hopes of success.

He and his French co-driver, Christian Tarin, were second overall some 37 minutes behind the race leader, Ari Vatanen, of Finland, also in a Citroen when they were forced out of their car It was wrecked. "We had just enough time to get out. It was totally burnt." Ickx said.

The other car, driven by the Swedish veteran, Bjorn Waldegaard, who was accompanied by his British co-driver, Fred Gallagher, apparently caught fire an hour later and only 84km further on.

First reports said that in both cases the fire was started by oil spilling from shock absorbers on to the turbo chargers of the cars. Waldegaard and Gallagher, who had been lying fourth overall, were flown by helicopter to Gao after also escaping unharmed.

Ickx's withdrawal allowed the Frenchman, Jean-Pierre Fontenay, driving a Mitsubishi, to move provisionally into second place nearly two hours behind Vatanen.

In the motorcycle category, the Italian, Alessandro De Petri, on a Yamaha, suffered from concussion after a fall only 25km into the stage. De Petri, who scored his third stage victory in this year's race on Thursday to move into fourth place overall, was taken to Tillia by helicopter Race doctors said his condition was not serious.

Another favourite, Jean-Christophe Wagner, fell off his Suzuki and withdrew with a hand injury.

Comment, page 24

War may halt rugby in France

By David Hands
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ALBERT Ferrasse, president of the French Rugby Federation, caused a tremor of anxiety in British, and particularly Scottish, rugby circles yesterday when he suggested that war in the Gulf could cause the postponement of the international match between France and Scotland in Paris on January 19.

The deadline for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait is four days earlier and Ferrasse, in a lengthy interview with a French news agency, said: "It's probable that if there is war there will be no sporting events organised. My personal opinion is that I would not be in favour of this match being played."

Bill Hogg, the SRU secretary, who had no inkling of a postponement, said: "We all hope there will be no war but if it does break out there will be immediate consideration at the highest level and no doubt the government would give advice on the matter."

Bob Weighill, secretary of the five nations' committee, who played in nine war-time internationals, found it difficult to imagine the game would not go ahead. But any request for a postponement would be considered by his committee, he said.

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Internal combustion threatens Dakar's future

COMMENT

DAVID CHAPPELL

GAO, Mali

THE tenere tree is a legend of the desert, the only tree in a vast expanse of rock and sand. It is also the final resting place of Thierry Sabine, the founder of the Paris to Dakar rally. Five years ago, Sabine was killed in a helicopter accident while following his beloved rally and in his will requested that his ashes be scattered under the tenere tree.

Since then, one of the trucks competing in the Dakar has knocked it down and in its place the locals have erected a metal structure. The spirit of Sabine lives on in the rally, but the loss of the tenere tree is symbolic of how much has changed. Sabine always intended the Dakar to be a race for amateurs with room for professionals — an adventure, a challenge. But what was for him an opportunity to give something to the African people he held in such affection has been seized by others for different reasons. Like many of those competing in this gruelling event, the Dakar is always in danger of losing its way.

The involvement of major manufacturers presents the most obvious problem. It means a two-tiered event; a competition for the leading teams, an adventure for the rest. But the course is the same for both, the rules no different.

The French and Japanese, in particular, have plunged millions of pounds into something which can have significant commercial consequences in the world's car markets. On the ground, marathon stages spanning two days, with no servicing at the overnight bivouac and a greater emphasis on navigation, have been introduced this year to give the amateurs a supposed fairer chance against the professionals. The result is precisely the opposite. But money is no guarantee of success, as the Camel Citroën team was sharply reminded yesterday, when the cars of Jacky Ickx and Bjorn Waldegaard retired within an hour of each other. However, making things tougher for all only widens the gap between rich and poor. There can be no more obvious place to heed that lesson than Black Africa.

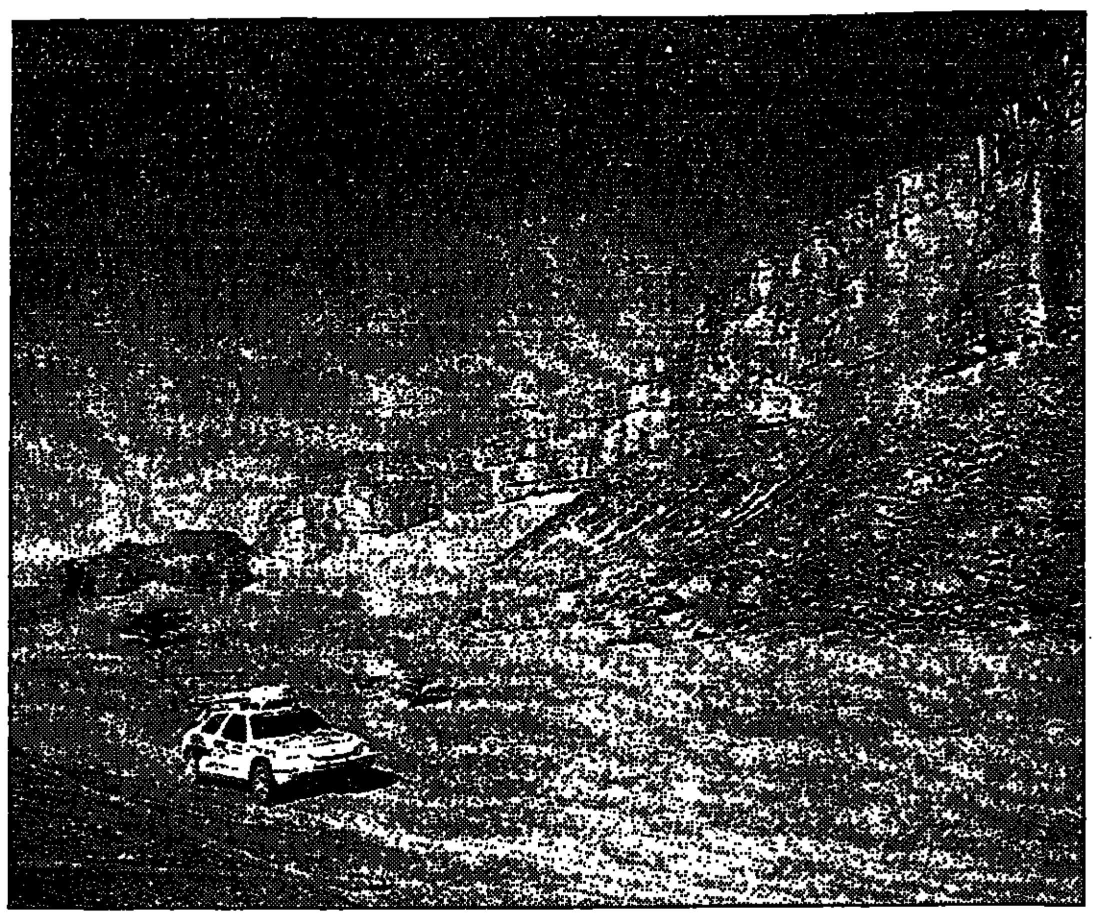
If aid to the rally's poorer relations is misdirected, at least the local populations can benefit from this annual high-speed trek through the French colonies. The Thierry Sabine Organisation (TSO) provides direct assistance each year to the villages with water pumps, medicine and educational books. Only one government, Mauritania's, insists on a payment to the central authority and while thre are accusations of gimmickry and bribery to allow the event to pass, it is a tangible attempt to improve conditions.

Contact with the rally means contact with the outside world for those along the 5,000-mile route. It used to be greater, but pressure to make the event safer for locals has forced TSO to move away from the villages and mud huts. Where the Dakar touches the populace, business, legal and illegal, booms.

The Dakar may not be able to solve problems but it can provide the opportunity to divert or focus attention. It is perhaps no coincidence that the governments of Algeria, Mali and Niger reached an accord with the Tuaregs, the nomadic desert tribesmen, last weekend, a few days before the rally was due to arrive. The persecution, over a generation, of a people whose culture and traditions outdate borders had become increasingly bloody in Mali. The imminent presence of an army of European journalists was well known to both sides and the Tuaregs were prepared to draw attention to their plight.

The fight for all in this part of the world is against the desert. For the *Dakeurs*, it is the ultimate test. The morality of a multi-million pound rally causing death in an area of chronic poverty is clearly suspect but the advance of the Sahara is relentless. Year after year, the desert expands.

In twelve years, the rally has cost the lives of 26 people, Africans, competitors and journalists. While that is unacceptable, it was inevitable given the terrain and length of the route, which in 1986 reached 15,000 kilometres. The organisers have taken measures to prevent further deaths but risk and danger are integral parts of motor sport.



Sand, sand everywhere: man and machine all alone on the Sahara desert road to Dakar

As ever, motorcyclists have borne the brunt of injuries suffered on the 1991 event and a number have already been repatriated. Other wounds have been inflicted by the muggers and thieves attracted by the prospect of easy pickings. But to ecologists, the wounds inflicted on the desert are a more pressing priority.

In France, where interest in the rally is surpassed only by the Tour de France, environmentalists have called for an end to the rape and pollution of the Sahara. But the one aspect of Africa which strikes all on the rally, and particularly those whose first experience it is, is the sheer vastness of this desert. Endless tracts of sand and rock, inhospitable and incapable of supporting life. The effect of 400 vehicles passing through once a year simply emphasises the insignificance. In terms of resources, the amount of fuel used by the competitors might be equivalent to that of three return flights from Britain to Australia.

The Paris to Dakar rally is a much criticised event, a logistical nightmare for the organisers but which brings a great deal to a great many people. Yet the most potent threat to its future lies within it.

Gilbert Sabine, the father of the late Thierry and the president of TSO, said three months ago that the Dakar was "a real human adventure within anyone's reach". "If we do not give the amateurs due consideration, one day our event will become a heat in a world championship with about 60 competitors and a few top teams. I do not want that to happen" he said.

Jean-Marie Balestre, the president of Fisa, the world governing body of motor sport, views the Dakar as the Blue Riband of a future world championship of marathon rallies, which would also include Paris-Moscow-Peking and the Australian Safari.

Last month, Sabine and Balestre sat side by side in the library of the Automobile Club de France in Paris at the announcement of the 1991 Dakar route. Balestre did all the talking.

If the Paris to Dakar rally loses its identity, then Gilbert Sabine, the dentist from Le Touquet, may suffer from regret as well as sorrow whenever he thinks of the tenere tree.

Race report, page 23

TENNIS

Sampras considers withdrawing to avoid serious injury

From ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, SYDNEY

IF THE organisers of next week's Australian Open thought their troubles were over when they made the draw yesterday, their sighs of relief proved a little premature. No sooner had they safely gathered in one of the strongest fields in the tournament's history than Pete Sampras, the US Open champion and No. 4 seed, announced that the shin soreness which has been troubling him since his historic victory at Flushing Meadow four months ago might force him to withdraw.

"The shins are still hurting, even when I walk sometimes. So do I play the Australian Open and risk the possibility of a fracture and messing up the rest of my season or take a break and get them right?" Sampras asked after a narrow defeat by Stefan Edberg in an exhibition match in Adelaide. The answer was probably not the one the organisers wanted to hear.

Though the American has played the ATP tour finals and won the Grand Slam Cup without breaking into a canter, he has not had to endure a five-set match since beating Ivan Lendl in the quarter-final of the US Open. Adept as he has become at minimising his movement on court, he cannot expect such an easy schedule over the next fortnight.

"I didn't come to Australia not to play," Sampras said. "But I have got to look down the road. I don't want to be permanently injured at the age of 19. It's going to be a tough decision." And one that he says he will make either today or tomorrow.

If he does withdraw, his place would be taken by a lucky loser, a description which aptly summarises Jeremy Bates's fate in recent days. The luck came on Thursday as he slipped into the tournament through the back door, courtesy of John McEnroe's shoulder injury, the loss will probably come on Monday or Tuesday when he has to play Boris Becker in the first round.

Bates was putting a brave face on his task yesterday, but the omens are not auspicious. Bates has lost both his matches against Becker, in the French Open two years ago and at Wembley in 1985, and, troubled by an arm injury, he lost to Sandin — son of Fred — Stolle in the first round of qualifying for the New South Wales Open last weekend. His one hope is that Becker has almost as poor a record this year, only showing signs of his old self in a comprehensive thrashing of Pat Cash yesterday. Cash, though, is not the menace he once was. "All matches are difficult. It's just that some are more difficult than others," the British No. 1 said.

Injuries apart, the seeded semi-finals are Edberg v Lendl and Becker v Sampras in the men's singles, Graf v Sabatini and Seles v Fernandez in the women's. Fernandez has to play Sara Gomer in the first round and her confidence would not have been helped by defeat at the NSW Open yesterday.

The No. 1 seed was beaten 7-5, 6-3 in the quarter-final by Jana Novotna, who plays Barbara Paulus in one semi-final, while Zina Garrison meets Arantxa Sánchez-Vicario, the No. 2 seed, in the other. The men's semi-final line-up is Derrick Rostagno v Guy Forget and Michael Stich v Magnus Gustafsson.

Results, page 25

ATHLETICS

Johnson clone is Cosford attraction

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

ANYBODY who enjoys a good impression as much as the original artist should be at RAF Cosford today for the Omron Games. Jason Livingston — "Baby Ben" to the trade — makes his first appearance of the indoor season there, within hours of Ben Johnson's return in Hamilton, Ontario, from a two-year suspension.

Livingston looks like Johnson, has the bullet start for which Johnson was renowned and, almost daily, seeks inspiration from his library of 15 Johnson videos.

The haircut is skinhead, the hands splay in flight like you-know-who, and, at 5ft 7in with muscles all over, he is Johnson in miniature.

Livingston, now aged 19, came onto the scene last year by finishing second in the world junior championship 100 metres and reaching the senior European indoor 60 metres final.

Still the Johnson posters are on his bedroom wall. So would it not be something if Livingston, who has Linford Christie to thank for his nickname, began the year with a 60 metres comparable with the 50 metres run by the 72-hour Olympic champion in Hamilton?

The competition at Cosford may not be as good but those entered include Darren Braithwaite, whose potential was illustrated by his sixth place in the 1990 European championship 100 metres.

CRICKET

Morris sets a fine example before loss of momentum

From RICHARD STREETON IN KARACHI

FOR England A to lose their opening fixture yesterday to the Karachi City Cricket Association (KCCA) had little significance for the rest of the tour. Three days after leaving an English winter, a target of 177 was predictably a shade too steep for batsmen neither acclimatised, nor yet tuned to the improvisations required for a 40-over match.

England were given a good foundation by Darren Bicknell and Hugh Morris, the captain, who scored the only fifty in the match and was given the man-of-the-match award. Later, though, the middle order proved unable to raise the run-rate and with seven wickets in hand, 80 were still wanted from the last ten overs.

Soon afterwards, Fairbrother and Thorpe were out in successive overs and KCCA went on to win by 29 runs.

It was no coincidence, of course, that Morris, having just spent six weeks in Australian glare and sunshine, was the only man able to drive and pull with such confidence. Bicknell, too, had few problems until he played Sikander, the leg spinner, into the covers and hesitated fatally before attempting a run.

Hussain had also gone before Morris was out in the 29th over. Morris tried to cut Mahboob, a persevering seam bowler, and Ijaz Faqih, the only slip and standing well wide, accepted a sharp chance well.

Next Faqih, in the same place, held a reflex catch right-handed to dismiss Fairbrother and he then deceived Thorpe through the air as he bowled his off spin. Ramprakash fell in similar fashion against Sikander.

England had earlier bowled and fielded with commendable zest. Munton looked the steadiest of the bowlers after Morris chose to field first. In his second and third overs Munton dismissed Amir Hanif and Ghulam Ali, who both struck the ball firmly in an entertaining second-wicket stand. Mujtaba and Tahir Mahmood later led the closing acceleration after KCCA had been restricted to 105 for three in the first 30 overs.

England took some good catches as the last seven wickets fell in seven overs but the runs also kept mounting. Fairbrother finished with three catches and he and Ramprakash were often applauded by the small crowd for their work in the deep. Rhodes held a fine, diving catch to his right in the fifth over to send back Basit Ali but missed two easier chances later.

Munton, who had two for five in his first four overs, finished with three for 28. Pick and Watkin suffered a little as the lower order players swung their bats. Medlycott was able to get some turn and had some good balls among some looser ones. Thorpe, the makeshift bowler, went for 11 and 12 in his first and fourth overs but otherwise fulfilled his role.

- Allan Border will lead a Rest of the World side in two one-day matches against Ireland in Belfast on July 3 and 4.
- Glamorgan have been given a £30,000 sponsorship grant by South Glamorgan county council to help unearth local talent. The Glamorgan chairman, Tony Lewis, said that it had been several years since a Welsh youngster last signed for the county. "It would be nice to see that situation change," he added.

SCOREBOARD FROM KARACHI

KCCA	
Ghulam Ali c Ramprakash b Munton	32
Basit Ali c Rhodes b Pick	3
Aamir Hanif lbw b Munton	23
Asif Mujtaba c Fairbrother b Thorpe	26
Tahir Mahmood b Watkin	27
*Ijaz Faqih c Morris b Pick	19
†Moin Khan run out	8
Iqbal Sikander c Fairbrother b Pick	1
Shahid Mahboob c Fairbrother b Munton	16
Akhtar Laiq run out	0
Fakhruddin Baloch not out	4
Extras (b 4, lb 5, nb 4, w 4)	17
Total (40 overs)	176

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-9, 2-64, 3-69, 4-114, 5-143, 6-145, 7-145, 8-158, 9-159.

BOWLING: Pick 8-1-34-3; Watkin 8-0-30-1; Medlycott 8-0-32-0; Munton 8-1-28-3; Thorpe 8-0-43-1.

ENGLAND A	
D J Bicknell run out	25
*H Morris c Faqih b Shahid Mahboob	54
N Hussain c and b Iqbal Sikander	1
N H Fairbrother c Faqih b Shahid Mahboob	18
M A Ramprakash st Moin Khan b Iqbal Sikander	6
G P Thorpe st Moin Khan b Ijaz Faqih	2
†S J Rhodes b Akhtar Laiq	7
K T Medlycott not out	11
R A Pick not out	9
Extras (b 1, lb 7, w 6)	14
Total (7 wkts, 40 overs)	147

S L Watkin and T A Munton did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-65, 2-80, 3-93, 4-110, 5-113, 6-123, 7-127.

BOWLING: Shahid Mahboob 8-0-27-2; Athar Laiq 8-0-23-1; Fakhruddin 4-0-15-0; Aamir Hanif 1-0-8-0; Ijaz Faqih 8-0-31-1; Iqbal Sikander 8-3-19-2; Asif Mujtaba 3-0-16-0.

Karachi City Cricket Association won by 29 runs.

Taylor's torment takes heavy toll on Smith

From ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, SYDNEY

ROBIN Smith arrived in Australia with the reputation of a batsman whose abrasive style might just shift the balance of the Ashes contest. Three months later, dismayed and disorientated, he goes to a country town called Albury this weekend to save his place in the England team.

There have been any number of shortfalls on this tour, most of them relating to thoughtless and inconsistent cricket at a team level. But of the individuals, Smith's failure has stood out if only because it was least expected.

Over Christmas, there were still grounds for his insistence that he was not having a bad tour. In three first-class games outside the internationals, he had scored 395 runs in six innings, of which four were not out.

Since then, however, his form in the games which matter has slipped beyond being simply suspect. His aggregate for the three Tests is 74 runs; in eight World Series Cup matches, he mustered 104. His international average is a little below 14. He cannot go on like this and expect to hold his place, established and respected though he has become.

Prior to the Sydney Test, Smith took his personal decline seriously enough to engage his brother, fellow Hampshire batsman Chris Smith, to coach him in the nets. Most of the points made to him were elementary, to a degree where it could have been feared the younger brother was embarrassing himself.

But it was to his credit that he put himself through such a public tutorial and, for a time in the first innings of the Test, it seemed to have borne fruit. Now, however, Smith is all at sea again, never worse than when facing the gently flighted off spin of Peter Taylor in one-day cricket.

Smith's batting relies a good deal on the bottom hand, hence his proficiency when cutting and pulling. But the bottom hand has become his enemy here as he has begun to thrust the bat at the ball anxiously and prematurely. In the knowledge of it, he has withdrawn into himself, eliminating shots and compromising his alertness in running between the wickets.

There was something symbolic in seeing him in company with Allan Lamb yesterday, for, if Lamb is fit to return to Test duty in Adelaide on January 25, then on form it will be Smith's place he is likely to take. Back in October, few things could have been more improbable to the England management.

Out of their adversity in the World Series competition has come some relief for England. The four-day match against a New South Wales side, which starts in Albury tomorrow, will be only their second first-class game, aside from Tests, since their stay in Tasmania almost two months ago.

Only yesterday, Doug Insole, the chairman of the Test and County Cricket Board's tours committee, was bemoaning the itinerary for this trip, which seemed a nice irony as it was under his approval that it was rubber-stamped. Insole says that a number of concessions were made by Australia. If that is the case, still more should have been demanded, for England have been playing under a severe handicap, never being allowed to settle into one form of cricket.

The idea, tomorrow, is that Lamb, if fit again after his calf strain, will captain the side and that Gooch will take a rest. This is sound thinking, for the strain of taking responsibility for his beleaguered troops is beginning to show in the captain's daily demeanour.

He is batting close to his best, without quite supplying the scores to prove it, and after the traumas he has suffered since leaving England it would do him no harm at all to distance himself from the problems for a day or two.

Smith: surprising failure

While England try to piece their fragmented game together in rural surroundings, the Sydney Cricket Ground will be packed to its 45,000 capacity again tomorrow night for the first of the World Series finals.

New Zealand's party arrived here only last night, the players having had to wait until literally the last ball of the qualifying tournament had been bowled before knowing their fate.

They gathered in Auckland yesterday morning and John Wright, who has said with regularity that his touring days are over, was wryly delighted to be making one more farewell trip across the Tasman. "I suppose it's fair to say we were the worst team on paper," he conceded. "But we showed there wasn't that much between us and England and we've beaten Australia once so it must be possible to do it again."

The second final is in Melbourne on Tuesday and, if a third is necessary, it will be played on Thursday, also in Melbourne, by which time upwards of 150,000 people would have watched the play-off games. Rather fewer than that, I suspect, will be on the New South Wales border to see England's battle with dashed morale.

- Stuart Law hit 102 not out and Craig McDermott, the former Australian Test fast bowler, an unbeaten 51 as Queensland recovered from 149 for six to reach 326 for seven in their Sheffield Shield match against Western Australia in Perth yesteday.

At the Adelaide Oval, Andrew Hilditch, the opening batsman and another former representative of the Australians at Test level, batted all day for an unbeaten 98 as South Australia struggled to reach 221 for seven against Victoria.

- Mike Whitney, the Australian fast bowler who played for Gloucestershire in 1981, has turned down an offer to rejoin the county because of his commitments at a cricket school in Sydney. Gloucestershire will continue to seek a fast bowler as a replacement for Courtney Walsh, who is likely to be touring England with West Indies this summer.

The ultimate test of endurance in 45 degrees of Arctic frost

By KEN LAWRENCE

SPORT ON TELEVISION

THE WEEK IN VIEW

WHEN Tom Wolfe wrote *The Right Stuff*, his best-selling novel about the first American astronauts, in the Seventies, he coined a phrase that was to be used to describe the courage and derring-do heroics of life's grand adventurers. You will find it a quite perfect description of two Britons who can be seen on Channel 4 at 8.00pm tonight. Patrick Winterton, once a Royal Marine but now a full-time business management student at Loughborough, and Cormack Hamilton, still a Marine, are certainly "the right stuff" ... men you would always wish to have on your team.

They represent Britain against seven other two-man teams in *Conquer The Arctic*, which one of the Canadian contestants describes as "the ultimate test of human endurance", 250 miles inside the Arctic Circle, where the temperature can drop to 45C below zero.

This third staging of the competition comprises seven events: Alpine and Nordic skiing, ice climbing, abseiling, biathlon, husky dog sledding, racing snowmobiles, which, with a top speed of 70mph, resemble powerboats on skis, and a ten-kilometre mountain marathon involving a race across ice, snow and rock over two mountains with a 5,578ft summit. These were spread over five days and are encapsulated by Trans World International into two one-hour programmes. The second is a week tonight.

Apart from torturing both mind and muscle in their quest to conquer the opposition, the conditions and themselves, the 16 contestants have to live off Arctic rations, dig holes in the snow to sleep (the discovery of an ice cave behind a frozen waterfall is welcomed as though it were the Hilton), travel in wet clothes, and carry a 20-kilogram (44lb) survival pack.

John Barry, the competition director, who was once the captain commanding the Royal Marines Mountain and Arctic Warfare Cadre, said: "Out there, you survive by your own hand or you die." Barry devised the contest and calls it a great test of skiing, strength, and determination — and of the participants' sense of humour.

Winterton, aged 29, an Olympic Games and world championship representative at Nordic skiing, said that, although he and Hamilton had done Arctic Marine training, when the temperature dropped to -22C, they found it chilly to say the least.

He explained that each individual event was no more difficult than running a marathon, "but, strung together, it becomes a wearing-down process when you are not properly fed or rested. It is the teams who have not looked after themselves properly who are not thinking straight; and thinking through how to tackle each event is vital."

Yet even that was not the worst part of competing and surviving. "Motivation is the hardest thing of all when you are cold and wet and have had to sleep without socks," Winterton said. "There is no hotel bed or an Olympic village — you are left to fend for yourself in conditions that are horrendous."

With the second man's score counting, it is essential for the pairs to work as teams, and that forges bonds which, Winterton says, you do not get in ordinary life. He and Hamilton were little more than acquaintances when they set out to conquer the Arctic: today they have a friendship that will last a lifetime.

There were several suprises. Locally-hired huskies did not always respond to foreign tongues or go in the direction required. Hamilton, travelling at 60 or 70 miles an hour and leading the downhill race by a distance, could not see, and therefore did not go through, one gate, which led to disqualification from that event; but there were no tantrums or protests.

Throw another log on the fire and enjoy the men Winterton calls "the good guys — not a prima donna among them". Indeed, 14 men; each made of the right stuff.

THE WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

TODAY: No Wigan, no Widnes, but Warrington promise to battle for rugby league's Regal Trophy against Bradford Northern in *Grandstand* (BBC1, from 12.15pm, with the match at 2.15). The Mercantile Credit Classic snooker tournament concludes on LWT (10.45pm), while Eurosport has world championship swimming from Perth (9.30am to 4.45pm) in *Saturday Live*.

TOMORROW: The newest, biggest and richest snooker tournament, the £1 million World Masters, will also become the world's most televised — 98 hours live and many more with recorded highlights. Sixty-four men and women will play 298 matches of singles and pairs, have sudden death play-offs and wear multi-coloured waistcoats. It takes off on Eurosport at 2.00pm. Howard Kendall's Everton play Peter Reid's Manchester City in *The Match* (LWT, 2.55pm) and with Superbowl getting closer, Channel 4 (8.30pm) has a 90-minute show with a live match and a round-up of the other details.

MONDAY: Snooker, inevitably, for ten passive hours on Eurosport, and, at 10.15pm a complete contrast with a bruising, hour-long National Hockey league round-up.

TUESDAY: Live from Melbourne (from 3.20 to 11.30am), Sky One shows the second, and possibly decisive, final of the World Series one-day cricket championship; BBC2 highlights with Richie Benaud are at midnight.

WEDNESDAY: Those top players not involved in Rumbelows Cup matches (all that action from Nick Owen's *Midweek Sport Special* on ITV at 10.40pm) will represent the Football League against the Italian League in Naples (*Sportsnight* on BBC1, 10.00pm).

THURSDAY: A night for satellites: live basketball (Kingston against Pesaro) on the Sports Channel plus the Australian hard-court tennis championships in Adelaide and World Masters snooker (7.30pm to midnight). Eurosport's snooker coverage is from 2.00 to 6.00pm and from 7.00 to 10.00pm. There is also play from the men's semi-finals in Adelaide (midnight-1.45am).

FRIDAY: *Sport on Friday* (BBC1, 2.15 to 4.00pm) features Kingston's basketball team — they are playing the Italian champions, Scavolini, at Crystal Palace — and takes a first look at the 1992 Olympic skiing course at Menbel, in France, where the women's downhill is being staged.

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FOOTBALL

Arsenal's Smith is happy to let his goals speak for him

By Louise Taylor

ALAN Smith was once dismissed as being as charismatic "as a sales rep from Slough," but, whatever his image, there can be no denying the way the **Arsenal** centre forward has been expressing himself in recent weeks.

His ten goals have not only been crucial to the club's championship challenge but have also revived Smith's own England aspirations. He may have fewer party tricks in his repertoire than Paul Gascoigne, but may well play a more influential role in today's meeting of the north London giants at White Hart Lane.

Whereas at Highbury no individual is allowed to become larger than the team, **Tottenham Hotspur** sometimes seem to be too much about Gascoigne for their own good. Perhaps that is one of the reason's why Terry Venables's side, who have slipped to sixth in the table, will be playing for little more than their pride.

However, these games arouse passions so strong that Gary Lineker, the Tottenham forward, said yesterday that he found them more intense than derby matches on Merseyside.

George Graham took time off from preparing for the game to express his anxiety for his five Arsenal players who have been selected to play for the Football League XI in Italy next Wednesday. "Whoever arranged this game for the week of the Rumbelows Cup quarter-final showed a complete lack of foresight," he said. "We have a big match against Everton next Saturday and I face the prospect of having half my team returning from a hard game in Italy with only one full day to prepare."

Aston Villa have failed to defeat **Liverpool** at Villa Park for ten years but Peter Withe, the new Villa coach, who played in that 1981 game, intends that history should repeat itself against the League leaders this afternoon. "I always want to win, even at tiddlywinks, so I am hoping to be unpopular in half of Liverpool," he said.

Jimmy Carter, transferred from Millwall for £800,000 this week, is likely to make his debut down the right wing for Liverpool but Tony Cascarino, a former partner of his in the Millwall attack, is expected to be omitted by Villa.

Everton's televised match with **Manchester City** at Goodison Park tomorrow pits Howard Kendall, who started the season as City's manager, against Peter Reid, who not only took over from him at Maine Road but captained the Everton team during Kendall's first managerial spell at Goodison.

"I have received several letters, some very complimentary about what I did at Maine Road, and some not so complimentary, so I should receive a mixed reaction from City supporters," Kendall said

No protection for two nice men

TWO OF the League's most personable managers will find themselves seated in adjacent plastic chairs on the touchline at Vicarage Road this afternoon (Louise Taylor writes). Watford may stand 23rd in the second division table, but they are unbeaten in the eight League games since Steve Perryman succeeded Colin Lee, and will be no pushovers for West Ham United, the leaders, who are managed by Billy Bonds.

With Watford yet to construct the conventional managerial dug-outs, officials and substitutes are perched in an uneviably exposed touchline position where they are prey to both the elements and barbs from the crowd.

Whether Bonds or Perryman faces the verbal flak today could depend on how West Ham cope with Penrice, Watford's coveted forward, and possibly Devonshire, for so long the midfield inspiration at Upton Park.

Steve Williams once fulfilled that role at Southampton, and he hopes to start in the Luton midfield in the first division fixture at Kenilworth Road this afternoon. By way of reinforcing the message that football is a smaller world than most, Chris Nicholl, the Southampton manager, and Jim Ryan, his Luton counterpart, were once colleagues at the Bedfordshire club.

Sunderland, fourth from the foot of the first division, seek their first League double of the season at Old Trafford, where Manchester United will be eager to atone for the 2-1 autumnal defeat at Roker Park, which led to Steve Bruce being stripped of the captaincy after being turned inside out by Gabbiadini.

Gabbiadini is expected to pass a fitness test but Peter Davenport, Sunderland's other main forward, is absent through injury.

WEEKEND TEAM NEWS

Barclays League First division

Aston Villa v Liverpool
Olney is fit and expected to replace Cascarino in the Villa attack. Mountfield (knee) and Gray (hamstring) face late fitness tests. Gage and Ormondroyd rejoin the squad. Carter, bought from Millwall, makes his debut on Liverpool's right wing.

Man Utd v Sunderland
United field the side which beat QPR. Phelan, Robins and Wallace compete for seats on the bench. If Gabbiadini (knee) passes a late fitness test for Sunderland, either Hawke or Rush will make way in attack. With Kay suspended, Williams makes his debut at right back.

Norwich v Leeds
Norwich drop Rosario because of an "attitude problem", Mortensen comes into attack. Fox is absent through injury, but Blades is fit to resume in defence. Whyte returns for Leeds after suspension; McClelland steps down.

N Forest v Coventry
Carr and Wilson return for Forest, Gaynor and Starbuck step down. Coventry are without Butcher, Speedie, Gallacher, and Edwards.

Sheff U v Crystal Palace
Pemberton, once of Palace, Beesley and Morris all face late fitness tests for United, Hoyland and Barnes stand by. Palace rely on the squad choosen for their postponed cup match at Nottingham Forest.

Tottenham v Arsenal
Fenwick plays his first League game in 14 months for Tottenham in place of Van den Hauwe (suspended). Edinburgh and Samways are expected to retain their places altough Sedgley, Walsh, and Bergsson are added to the sqaud. Naytm is suspended. Arsenal expect to be unchanged.

Wimbledon v Derby
Wimbledon are without Curle (suspended). Derby miss Forsyth (suspended).

Tomorrow

Everton v Man City
Everton add Newell, Keown, and Cottee to the squad, but McDonald is fit. Quinn, Heath, and Brightwell all passed fitness tests for City yesterday.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Warrington in regal form

By Keith Macklin

IT IS a mercy that cup finals do not always follow the line of form otherwise the Regal Trophy final at Headingley today would be a formality for Warrington.

After a disastrous start to the season, they have put their game together to such good effect in recent weeks that the scalps of Widnes, the Premiership holders, Wigan, the champions, and the reviving Hull Kingston Rovers have all been taken.

Bradford Northern, for their part, have been thoroughly unconvincing. They produced their worst performance of the season in defeat at Castleford, and stumbled and stuttered their way to a home victory against the bottom club, Rochdale Hornets, whom they beat without much flair in the Trophy semi-finals.

It is unfortunate for them that their forward, Karl Fairbank, is missing through suspension as the great strength of the Bradford side is their formidable pack.

Warrington received a tremendous lift yesterday when a specialist said that David Lyon, the full back, will be fit to play after recovering from a damaged eye.

The springboard of the Warrington attack is the outstanding partnership which has developed at half back between the Welshman, Kevin Ellis, and the Australian, Chris O'Sullivan. If the pair win the half-back battle, they can lay the foundations for Warrington to maintain the remarkable grip of teams from west of the Pennines in the leading trophies.

The championship programme tomorrow produces the other outstanding match of the weekend, with Widnes determined to return to the head of the table in their match against Hull, the leaders.

SNOOKER

Hallett fails for no lack of incentives

By Steve Acteson

MIKE Hallett, the world No. 7 from Grimsby, has not won an important title since August, 1989, but after being beaten 6-4 by Jimmy White in the first Mercantile Credit Classic semi-final in Bournemouth yesterday, he uttered the astonishing confession: "I just couldn't get motivated."

Neither the title, nor the £60,000 first prize or even the runners-up cheque of £36,000 — twice his actual winnings — could get Hallett going.

Hallett, who also confessed to feeling "flat," still recovered from 3-1 down to level at 4-4 but after missing a simple red in the ninth frame, he petulantly banged his cue butt on the floor and White cleared with 96 and then added a final break of 48.

White, who plays either the world champion, Stephen Hendry, or Neal Foulds in today's best-of-19 frames final, has abandoned his cavalier approach of old. At 28 and after a series of disappointing defeats to lesser players, he found his new approach paying dividends at last month's World Matchplay where he defeated Hendry in the final.

White, ranked No. 4, said: "I should have done this years ago. There was a time when I thought I had a right to win but then something clicked and now I'm playing more of a percentage game. I was fed up with losing to people I should beat easily."

RESULTS: Semi-finals: J White (Eng) bt M Hallett (Eng), 6-4. Thursday's late result: N Foulds (Eng) bt G Wilkinson (Eng), 5-3.

A new Boat Race dawn may be on Cambridge's horizon

MARC ASPLAND

Burden on their shoulders: Cambridge's trial eights, Drunk and Disorderly, take to the Thames, from Putney to Mortlake, yesterday

Trial eights offer a cause for optimism

By Mike Rosewell
ROWING CORRESPONDENT

CAMBRIDGE revealed their Boat Race potential in a Putney to Mortlake contest yesterday, and there is clearly more cause for optimism than a year ago.

Their two trial eights, named Drunk and Disorderly, included four old Blues, six former junior internationals and two past Goldie performers. The unusually late date for the race was due to a decision by the coach, Mark Lees, to allow his men to row initially in college boats and to give "fresh men a chance to come through". As a result, three oarsmen on show were novices.

Drunk, stroked by the president and lightweight international, Richard Staite, led by half a length on the Middlesex station as the crews rounded the Fulham bend, and stretched this advantage to a length at the Mile. At 32 strokes per minute to Disorderly's 34, Staite's crew looked more settled but Nick Clarry, a junior gold medal winner this year, raised Disorderly's efforts as the crews approached Harrods and achieved a canvas lead by Hammersmith.

The livelier Disorderly increased this lead to more than a length by Chiswick Eyot and Drunk's challenge evaporated, the margin at the finish being 15 seconds.

It was clear when Disorderly challenged at Harrods that Staite was in trouble. Suffering from a chest infection, he said: "It felt black all the way down there but you don't know how it will feel until you do it."

Cambridge's efforts in the 1990 Boat Race have clearly raised morale. Lees's men this year are fit and more technically advanced. A slow time, of 19min 59sec, was achieved on a slack tide with a head wind in the middle stages.

CREWS: Disorderly: Bow: K Metrewell (Westminster and Pembroke), T Ames (Eton and Girton); S Waterhouse (Bishop's Stortford College and Fitzwilliam), R Smith (Shrewsbury and Trinity Hall); *A Wright (King Edward VI and Corpus Christi); *S Fowler (Eton and Robinson); *G Pooley (Berkhamsted, Imperial College and St John's); N Clarry (John Hampden Grammar and Jesus) Cox: V Cook (Bedford and Selwyn) Drunk. Bow: M MacAdden (Oratory and Jesus); A Adam (Eton and Magdalene), R Piercy (Sedbergh and Corpus Christi), A Elder (St Paul's and Trinity Hall), M Justice (Boston University USA and Sidney Sussex) D Gillard (Bedford Modern and St Catharine's); K Allen (King's School Canterbury and Magdalene); *R Staite (Prince Henry's Evesham and St Catharine's president) Cox. V Baker (Ranelagh School and Trinity Hall)

RUGBY UNION

Temporary diversion from events of next weekend

By David Hands, rugby correspondent

THIS is a somewhat anomalous league weekend. While the rugby public holds its breath in anticipation of the opening of the five nations' championship next week, players, many of whom have hardly been seen by their coaches for the last month, straggle back for the brief resumption of the Courage Clubs Championship after eight weeks away.

Or not, as the case may be. International squad training, divisional and county matches have taken their toll. Brian Moore, the England hooker, favours his neck injury rather than play for Harlequins in their first division match with Orrell, John Hall is out of action for Bath against Moseley and Gary Rees, the flanker, has torn shoulder muscles which keep him out of Nottingham's game at Rosslyn Park and may well prohibit a place in the England party which travels to Wales next weekend.

Any remaining doubts about the make-up of England's XV will be resolved in training at Twickenham tomorrow. In the meantime, coaches try to pick up such pieces as are left to them. "The only way left to us of trying to get a game together was the one against Swansea on December 29," Jack Rowell, the coach of Bath, the leaders of the first division, said. "That and one coaching session this week, when the rain tipped down. It really is impossible to prepare properly and for the teams to do themselves justice."

Bath lead Harlequins and Leicester by two points, with a game in hand on both, and their opponents today are weakened by the absence of Gary Cox, their captain, and Bob Barr, who will be at the wedding of a former colleague. Their nearest rivals, Harlequins, take the long road to Orrell, who have been delighted to receive sponsorship for the match from Heinz UK, whose factory is half a mile from Edge Hall Road. Heinz are so far the only confirmed main sponsors of the World Cup, and there are no indications of any imminent additions.

Sammy Southern, the Orrell captain, misses the game after being sent off, for the first time in a 19-year career, against Morley last weekend. Southern's case will be heard by the Lancashire disciplinary committee on Thursday, which will determine whether he misses the Pilkington Cup tie with Newcastle Gosforth on January 26. In his absence, Dewi Morris's contribution will be important, both as scrum half and effective leader of the forwards.

The contest will be intense, as it will be at Franklins Gardens, where Northampton's neighbourly meeting with Leicester — who give a league debut to Graham Rowntree, last year's England colts prop — brings together two No. 8s of proven world class: Wayne Shelford in his league debut and Dean Richards. "I don't think there is going to be a battle," Shelford said. "We will both be playing with 14 others players. You can't play the game by yourself."

TODAY'S TEAM NEWS

Courage Clubs Championship First division

Bath v Moseley
Chilcott replaces Lee at prop and captains Bath, who play Knight at scrum half and Maslen in the back row. Moseley, missing Cox, Masters and Barr, play Beddow at hooker and Harknett and Sey in the back row.

Liv'pl St H v Gloucester
Moss plays his first league game at No. 8 for Liverpool, who have Higgin and Simms in the backs and Buckton in the pack. Gloucester prefer Phillips to Pascall at prop and Morris at centre ahead of Cummins.

Northampton v Leicester
Northampton prefer Thorneycroft to Packman on the wing and move Rodber to lock. Dodge plays in Leicester's midfield because Buttimore is injured and Wells returns at flanker for his first game in a month.

Orrell v Harlequins
Rimmer makes his league debut at prop for the suspended Southern and Orrell's captaincy passes to Langford. Killick will hook for Harlequins after Moore's withdrawal, Langhorn plays No. 8 and Wedderburn is replaced on the wing by Davis.

Rosslyn Pk v Nottingham
Dear has been passed fit to play in Park's second row and Graves occupies his usual position at full back. West makes his league debut for Nottingham at flanker and Gray and Hodgkinson return.

Saracens v Wasps
Saracens retain Tunningley at full back ahead of Robinson and restore Buckton to centre and Tarbuck to flanker. Buzza's return at full back for Wasps means Pilgrim plays wing; Damian Hopley has recovered from injury to play centre.

Chance for Neath to recover form

By Gerald Davies

THE recent spate of heavy rain in South Wales, which has barely stopped since Christmas, could have a debilitating effect on the Heineken League programme which resumes today.

The waterlogged condition of the **Pontypridd** pitch has already forced the club to call off their match with **Pontypool**. Only a point separates the middle ranking teams in the premier division. Other clubs will be making pitch inspections this morning.

Neath, who do not seem to have enjoyed the break in League fixtures, losing their 51-match winning run at Newport, will be glad to get back to the more serious stuff today in their match against **Llanelli**.

They will, quite naturally, be without the 19-year-old Scott Gibbs, who has been selected to win his first cap for Wales next Saturday. The other five internationals, a mite longer in the tooth and having already played for Wales, will be hoping to help their club to recapture some of its dynamic form which has deserted them of late. They beat Llanelli 21-12 earlier in the season.

Bridgend, who also lost to Newport last week, make six changes — three at forward, three in the backs — from that team to play **Cardiff**, whom they beat by a point in the earlier match at the Arms Park.

Cardiff see the return of Mike Hall, who has not played for his club since Christmas. Steve Ford and Mark Ring, though experienced campaigners, are keeping an eye on the England match next week and are not playing. Simon Hill will play in the centre.

Bridgend, whose loss last week to Gloucester came hard on the heels of their defeat at Newport, will want to pick themselves up sharply if they are to retain their second place in the division. Three points separate them from Neath but Neath have a game in hand.

Survival instincts will be exposed at Abertillery where the visitors will be **Glamorgan Wanderers**. They are at the bottom of the table with today's visitors a point ahead.

Voting-rights dispute

THE Oxford University Rugby Club was last night accused of undemocratically rewriting its constitution (Peter Bills writes). The sequel to a saga which began last year and ultimately split the club, came as players voted for Moore, Taylor or Everett as their new captain.

Bryan Morgan, the club administrator, confirmed yesterday before the vote was taken, that it now appeared from the constitution that only those players who played in the 1990 University match were eligible to vote.

The original club rules stated that any blue in residence could vote. The committee unsuccessfully attempted toget this into the constitution last year. Now it is claimed that the committee has introduced the new constitution without a vote.

None of the overseas blues still at Oxford — Smith, Jones, James and Coker — voted. None was informed of the election. Coker said: "The actions of the committee are totally against the constitution. Why have laws in the first place if you don't abide by them."

FOR THE RECORD

BADMINTON

TAIPEI: Taipei Masters: Singles: Quarter-finals: Men: A Wiranata (Indo) bt J-P Nierhoff (Den), 15-5, 15-7; Foo Kok Keong (Malaysia) bt F Permadi (Indo), 15-2, 7-15, 15-13; P-E Hoyer-Larsen (Den) bt D Hall (Eng), 15-12, 7-15, 15-10; H Susanto (Indo) bt T Stuer-Lauridsen (Den), 15-12, 15-11. Women: S Susanti (Indo) bt C Martin (Den), 11-4, 11-8, H Troke (Eng) bt E van de Heuvel (Neth), 11-4, 11-5; M Timur (Indo) bt A Lao Oi Chan (Aus), 5-11, 12-11, 11-1; S Jaroensiri (Thai) bt E Coene (Neth), 11-5, 12-10.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Charlotte Hornets 101, Sacramento Kings 99; Indiana Pacers 129, New York Knicks 122; Washington Bullets 122, Los Angeles Clippers 110; San Antonio Spurs 117, Orlando Magic 111; Houston Rockets 156, Denver Nuggets 133; Golden State Warriors 113, Seattle Supersonics 103.

EUROPEAN CUP: Quarter-final groups: Men: Fourth series: Aris Salonika (Gr) 92, Pop '84 Split (Yug) 71; Scavolini Pesaro (It) 112, Bayer Leverkusen (Ger) 98; Barcelona 88, Maccabi Tel Aviv 84. Women: Third series: Cesena (It) 98, Sporting Athens 87; Arvika (Swe) 69, Saiper Zaragoza (Sp) 79.

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Men						
Barcelona	4	4	0	372	308	8
Scavolini Pesaro	4	3	1	389	344	7
Bayer Leverkusen	4	2	2	380	389	6
Aris Salonika	4	2	2	348	351	6
Pop '84 Split	4	2	2	333	336	6
Maccabi Tel Aviv	4	2	2	330	341	6
Limoges	4	1	3	341	364	5
Kingston	4	0	4	310	380	4
Women						
Cesena	3	3	0	282	218	6
Arvika	3	3	0	273	246	6
Elektrosila L'grad	3	2	1	293	289	5
Astarac Mirande	3	1	2	258	281	4
Saiper Zaragoza	3	0	3	226	280	3
Sporting Athens	3	0	3	242	290	3

BOWLS

BALLYMONEY: Bushmills Whiskey Irish Masters: Semi-finals: A Allcock (Eng) bt G Smith (Eng), 3-7, 7-2, 7-4, 7-5; H Duff (Scot) bt J Baker (Ire), 6-7, 3-7, 7-6, 7-4, 7-1. Final: Allcock bt Duff, 7-1, 0-7, 6-7, 7-3, 7-6.

FOOTBALL

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Liverpool 2, Aston Villa 0, Leeds 2, Leicester 3.

FA YOUTH CUP: Third round: Swansea 1, Colchester 3.

ENGLISH SCHOOLS TROPHY: Fifth round: Sefton 2, Leeds 1.

ENGLISH SCHOOLS ADIDAS UNDER-19 COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Bedfordshire 0, Northamptonshire 2.

ENGLISH SCHOOLS BARCLAYS UNDER-19 CUP: First round: Suffolk College 2, Westcliff High School (Essex) 2; New College (Shropshire) 0, Worcester VIth College 1.

NEHRU GOLD CUP: Soviet Union 4, Zambia 0.

BOXING

BATTERSEA: Welterweight (8 rnds): Leigh Wicks (Brighton) bt Barry Messam (Nottingham), pts. Bantam (8 rnds): Duke McKenzie (Croydon) bt Peter Buckley (Acocks Green), rsc 5th rnd. Light-middle (10 rnds): Lloyd Honeyghan (Bermondsey) bt Mario Olmedo (Mex), rsc 4th rnd. Cruiser (10 rnds): Derek Angol (Gravesend) bt Dan Murphy (US), rsc 5th rnd. Super-middle (8 rnds): Ray Webb (Stepney) bt Carlo Christie (Birmingham), pts. Light (6 rnds): Rick Bushell (Herne Bay) bt Mike Morrison (Pembroke), pts.

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: Adelaide: South Australia 221-7 (A Hilditch 98 not out) v Victoria. Perth: Queensland 328-7 (S Law 102 not out, C McDermott 51 not out) v Western Australia.

DARTS

FRIMLEY GREEN: Embassy world professional championship: Quarter-finals: K Kenny (Eng) bt J Wilson (Scot), 4-3; E Bristow (Eng) bt D Whitcombe (Eng), 4-3.

GOLF

CARRARA, Australia: Palm Meadows Cup: Leading second-round scores (Australia unless stated): 135: J Rystrom (Swe), 64, 71. 136: C Strange (US), 70, 66; G Turner (NZ), 74, 62; G Norman, 66, 70; R Swanson, 67, 69. 137: R Kawagishi (Japan), 67, 70. 138: C Patton (US), 67, 71. 139: B Faxon (US), 68, 71; E Pfister (US), 67, 72; I Shirahama (Japan), 72, 67; T Price, 72, 67. British scores: 145: S Bennett, 72, 73. 146: R Rafferty, 74, 72.

TUCSON, Arizona: Tucson Open: Leading first-round scores (United States unless stated): 64: H Sutton, R Tway. 65: P Mickelson. 66: N Henke, J Hallet, M Hatalsky, G Hallberg, J Cook. 67: C Pavin, P Persons, R Mediate, W Britton. 68: D Watson (SA), M Lye, F Couples, S Gardner, S Hoch, E Aubrey, M Standly, L Silveira, K Knox, J Maggert, R Stewart.

HARARE: Zimbabwe Open: Leading second-round scores: 140: G Turner (Eng), 70, 70. 141: C M Stromberg (Swe), 72, 69. 142: M Litton (Wales), 71, 71; J Cheetham (Eng), 74, 68; A Price (Zim), 70, 72. 143: [illegible] (Eng), 71, 72. 144: J Andersson (Swe), 74, 70; A Rodgers (Zim), 72, 72.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Boston Bruins 5, Quebec Nordiques 3; Pittsburgh Penguins 5, Calgary Flames 1; Chicago Black Hawks 7, Toronto Maple Leafs 2; Los Angeles Kings 6, Buffalo Sabres 2; Hartford Whalers 5, Vancouver Canucks 4.

RACKETS

BOSTON: United States amateur championship: First round (United States unless stated): T Eliot bt R Bernstein, 15-13, 15-6; D Hamlen bt L Habina, 15-6, 15-8.

REAL TENNIS

BOSTON: United States Open championship: Second round: R Fahey (Aus) bt M Reay (GB), 6-3, 6-3; M Gooding (GB) bt J Faulise (US), 6-1, 6-0; M Happell (Aus) bt R Whitehouse (US), 6-1, 6-0; C Bray (GB) bt B Hill (US), 6-0, 6-0.

SKIING

KRANJSKA GORA, Yugoslavia: Women: Giant slalom: 1, V Schneider (Switz), 2min 11.86sec; 2, N Bokal (Yug), 2:12.77; 3, P Kronberger (Austria), 2:12.89; 4, E Twardokens (US), 2:12.90; 5, S Eder (Austria), 2:13.23; 6, M Maierhofer (Austria), 2:13.28; 7, I Salvenmoser (Austria), 2:13.28; 8, A Wachter (Austria), 2:13.34; 9, U Maier (Austria), 2:13.48; 10, P Bernet (Switz), 2:13.69.

WORLD CUP: Overall: 1, Kronberger, 195pts; 2, S Ginther (Austria), 78; 3, C Bournissen (Switz), 72; 4, K Gutensohn (Ger), 69; equal 5, B Wiberg (Swe) and Schneider, 60. Giant slalom: 1, Schneider, 45; 2, Kronberger, 40; 3, Bokal, 20; 4, A Wachter (Austria), 19; 5, P Wiberg (Swe), 15; 6, I Salvenmoser (Austria), 13. Teams: 1, Austria, 1,072; 2, Switzerland, 490; 3, Germany, 411; 4, Norway, 348; 5, Sweden, 255; 6, Italy, 203.

TENNIS

MELBOURNE: Australian Open: Singles: Men: Second qualifying round: K Jones (US) bt N Broad (GB), 6-3, 3-6, 6-4; A Castle (GB) bt W Arthurs (Aus), 7-5, 6-4. Women: First qualifying round: J Hetherington (Can) bt B Borneo (GB), 6-3, 6-1. J Salmon (GB), bye.

SYDNEY: New South Wales Open: Singles: Men: Quarter-finals: M Gustafsson (Swe) bt D Cahill (Aus), 7-5, 6-4; G Forget (Fr) bt F Santoro (Fr), 6-2, 6-1; D Rostagno (US) bt M Jaite (Arg) 6-1 6-3; M Stich (Ger) bt J Anderson (Aus) 6-3 6-0. Women: Third round: N Provis (Aus) bt A Frazier (US), 7-5, 6-4. Quarter-finals: J Novotna (Cz) bt M J Fernandez (US), 7-5, 6-3; B Paulus (Austria) bt M Maleeva-Fragniere (Switz), 7-6, 6-4; Z Garrison (US) bt N Zvereva (USSR), 6-4, 6-3; A Sanchez Vicario (Sp) bt Provis, 7-5, 6-2.

AUCKLAND: New Zealand Open championship: Third round: J-P Fleurian (Fr) bt E Sánchez (Sp), 6-2, 7-6; [illegible] (Br) bt C Bergstrom (Swe) w/o; K Novacek (Cz) bt L Jonsson (Swe) w/o; M Vajda (Cz) bt F Kunnen (Ger) 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.

ADELAIDE: Rio Challenge exhibition tournament: Blue group: B Becker (Ger) bt P Cash (Aus) 6-3, 6-1. Red group: S Edberg (Swe) bt P Sampras (US), 6-7, 6-3, 7-6.

YACHTING

FREMANTLE: World Etchells 22 championship: Fifth race: 1, The Ashes (C Law, GB); 2, Cocktails at 8 (P Chappell, Aus); 3, Menace X (D Conner, US); 4, Seaford (W Packer, Aus); 5, [illegible] (M Bethwaite, Aus); 6, Lemira II (G Lucas, Aus). Overall: 1, The Ashes, 14.4pts; 2, Menace X, 29.7; 3, The Boss (C Beashel, Aus), 39; 4, North Sydney Station (M Coxon, Aus), 40.7; 5, Fury (P Gilmour, Aus), 43.7; 6, Golden Parachute (I Brown, Aus), 44.

IN BRIEF

Lewis is arrested

CARL Lewis, the Olympic gold medal athlete, was arrested yesterday and held at at a police station in Houston on drink-driving charges after bursting the tyres on his car on a kerb and rendering it immobile.

A test put his blood-alcohol content at 0.12 per cent. In Texas, the limit is 0.10 per cent.

BOWLS: Tony Allcock won the Irish Masters bowls title when he hit back in the deciding set to beat Hugh Duff, of Scotland

POWERBOATING: The bravery of Steve Curtis, a former world champion, was recognised at the London International Boat Show yesterday. Curtis, who dived into rough seas off Monaco last summer in a vain bid to save the life of Stefano Casiraghi, the husband of Princess Caroline of Monaco, was presented with a crystal tankard by the Royal Yachting Association.

TENNIS: Jean-Philippe Fleurian, of France, beat Emilio Sánchez, the top seed, 6-2, 7-6, to reach the semi-finals of the New Zealand Open championships in Auckland.

SKIING: Vreni Schneider of Switzerland, the overall winner in 1989, claimed her first World Cup victory of the season in the giant slalom in Kranjska Gora, Yugoslavia, yesterday

BASKETBALL: All European club matches scheduled in Israel have been suspended until the Gulf crisis is resolved.

GOLF: Denis Durnian, of England, has flown home from the Zimbabwe Open because he is on a UN blacklist for playing in South Africa.

BOXING

Duff seeks a rapid rise by Honeyghan

By Srikumar Sen
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

LLOYD Honeyghan could be challenging for the world light-middleweight title by the end of this year. After his fourth-round win against Mario Olmedo, of Mexico, at the Latchmere Sports Centre, Battersea, on Thursday, his manager, Mickey Duff, said the former world welterweight champion could be in the world rankings soon.

"There should be no trouble getting him into the rankings after a couple more meaningful wins," Duff said about Honeyghan, who was returning to boxing after an absence of ten months following a crushing defeat by Mark Breland. After that it would be a case of negotiating a challenge.

Duff has two titles in mind: the International Boxing Federation version held by Gianfranco Rosi, of Italy, whom Honeyghan knocked out in three rounds in 1985, and the World Boxing Association one vacated by Julian Jackson

Duff, while admitting that Honeyghan did not look a world title contender against Olmedo, expected him to find his feet after his next two contests.

Honeyghan was pleased with his night's work, because he believed he had wiped away the memory of his six knockdowns against Breland. "I've had harder sparring sessions than that, but I have erased Breland now," he said.

Honeyghan may have his next outing at the end of February.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/P	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	+ temp °C	Last snow fall
AUSTRIA								
Igls	0	50	good	crust	closed	fair	5	6/1
Fantastic crowd-free skiing on upper slopes								
Kitzbühel	12	70	fair	heavy	poor	cloud	6	5/1
Wet snow on lower slopes but good snow higher up								
Mayrhofen	40	60	icy	crust	closed	cloud	5	4/1
Skiing on Hintertux glacier is excellent								
Obergurgl	50	105	good	crust	good	fine	3	7/1
Skiing still very good throughout the area								
St Anton	30	125	fair	heavy	fair	cloud	4	7/1
Upper runs in good condition								
FRANCE								
Alpe d'Huez	95	250	good	varied	fair	fine	2	8/1
Fantastic snow on upper runs								
Flaine	45	185	good	heavy	fair	cloud	6	9/1
Good piste skiing on upper slopes								
La Plagne	110	210	good	heavy	fair	sun	3	7/1
Upper slopes excellent, lower slopes icy at first								
Les Arcs	80	295	fair	heavy	worn	cloud	5	9/1
Middle and upper pistes generally in good condition								
Megève	35	145	worn	heavy	poor	cloud	7	8/1
Heavy slush with worn patches on all pistes								
Tignes	140	260	good	varied	good	fine	-2	9/1
Excellent on-piste skiing. Varied off piste								
Val Thorens	100	240	good	varied	fair	fine	2	9/1
Good skiing on all slopes, especially north facing								
ITALY								
Cervinia	80	250	good	powder	good	fine	4	7/1
Condition of snow on and off piste excellent								
Courmayeur	80	250	good	slushy	fair	fair	1	7/1
Piste beginning to wear								
SWITZERLAND								
Crans Montana	70	280	slushy	heavy	worn	cloud	4	9/1
Warm air temperature has had a serious effect on snow								
Mürren	20	90	fair	varied	worn	fohn	6	6/1
Still good skiing on upper slopes								
Saas Fee	110	230	fair	heavy	slushy	fine	6	10/1
Poor visibility and light snow-fall on glacier								
St Moritz	70	130	good	crust	fair	cloud	0	4/1
Pistes very hard-packed and icy in the morning								
Verbier	10	200	good	varied	closed	cloud	8	9/1
Good skiing on upper and middle slopes								
Zermatt	65	95	good	varied	poor	cloud	3	6/1
Skiing remains excellent on upper slopes								

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper, and art to artificial

SCOTLAND

Cairngorm: snow level, 1,000ft, vertical runs, 1,500ft. Runs: upper, middle and lower complete, new snow on a firm base, ample nursery areas, wide cover. Access roads open, slight snow. Chairlifts: Car Park and White Lady open. Tows open.

Glenshee: snow level, 1,000ft; vertical runs, 1,000ft. Runs: upper and lower complete; ample nursery areas. Access roads open. Chairlifts open. Tows: all open except Grianan and Meall Odhar T-Bar. The Lecht: snow level 1,000ft, vertical runs 700ft. Runs: main complete, wide new cover. Ample nursery areas. Access roads open both sides. Tows: all open except Petrel, Bunting and Buzzard.

Glencoe: snow level 1,000ft, vertical runs, 2,600ft. Runs: upper and lower complete, new snow. Access roads clear. Chairlifts open. Tows: Plateau open.

● Information supplied by the Scottish Meteorological Office

An open letter to Kenneth Baker, Home Secretary

From Richard Evans, of The Times *racing staff*

Dear Mr Baker,

Several Royal Ascots and Cheltenham festivals have passed since you gently ribbed me for buying a share in a racehorse and enquired if I gained a perverse pleasure from throwing good money after bad in costly training fees. As events turned out, your jests were justified. Sunday For Monday never visited the winner's enclosure in a less-than-glorious career over hurdles and fences.

Who would have guessed then that the uncertain wheel of political fortune would have provided you with an interest, albeit indirect, in each and everyone of the 13,500 racehorses now in training in Britain? The political problems caused by prisons, crime, immigration, broadcasting and pornography will have occupied most of your time since your arrival at Queen Anne's Gate. However, the difficulties facing the racing industry and your responsibilities for the Tote and the betting levy system will not have escaped your political antennae.

The causes of the crisis confronting racing are complex, but they are essentially financial. Unlike almost any other racing nation in the world, in Britain both the government *and* bookmakers cream off vast sums from racing. Last year around £450 million in betting duty from horse racing went to the Treasury, while bookmakers' annual profits from racing alone have been estimated at £150 million. The result is a sport short of cash, right the way through from poor wages for stable staff to low prize-money for owners. More owners, trainers and lads are giving up the unequal struggle against racing's lop-sided finances and are quitting the sport they love. The training centres of Newmarket, Malton and Lambourn face a special recession of their own.

As your former prime minister would have said, you don't want to know about problems, you are more interested in hearing about solutions to problems. Well, there is a sporting chance you have at your fingertips a solution to many of racing's difficulties. It would not involve asking the Treasury for a single extra penny, would earn you political Brownie points (and votes!) and could revitalise a sport heading for a crash.

The formula involves gentle but crucial tinkering with racing's structure and helping to restore a sense of balance to its finances.

First, you must free the Horserace Totalisator Board from state control and enable it to flourish under new, commercial management. Pool betting provides racing with a fortune in most countries and could do much better here, even with the opposition of the Big Three bookmakers. Contrary to the claims of Lord Wyatt about the record of the Tote since he took over as chairman 15 years ago, many independent observers point to a poor financial performance in recent years. Declining profit share from an increased turnover is not exactly the height of financial success and would have cost many chairmen of public companies jobs.

You will know of the controversy surrounding Lord Wyatt's re-appointment as chairman for a further two years from next May. The Home Office did not want him to have the job, Mrs Thatcher overruled such advice and, to rub salt into racing's wound, the announcement was made 24 hours before she said she was resigning as prime minister.

You will also be aware of the contents of the Lloyds Merchant Bank report into the Tote and the hushing up for almost two years of its main conclusions and recommendations. The report was prepared in such a way that any commercially sensitive information could easily have been kept separate from publishable contents. Unnecessary secrecy is not your style, and it is absurd for your officials to say the report is still under consideration, 21 months and two home secretaries after it was delivered to the Home Office. Please, publish it now.

Following your encouraging speech at the Gimcrack dinner, your advisers will present you soon with a paper outlining options for the Tote. Meanwhile, officials at the Department of Trade and Industry also have their eyes on the Tote and its potential for raising money for the government. So be careful.

It is essential you set the Tote free, but in a manner which benefits racing. Privatisation in its purest sense, with outside shareholders taking the profits generated by increased betting turnover, would be a dreadful blow to racing. The underlying philosophy of the Lloyds report is sound. The Tote would benefit, racing would be enriched, and you would be rid of an unnecessary encumbrance.

Second, you must tackle the power of the *big* bookmakers who are unwittingly helping to bleed the sport dry. No-one can blame Ladbrokes, William Hill and Coral for taking advantage of the existing system. But when they threaten the health of the sport from which they make their profits, it is time to act. Just over £41 million of punters' money is expected to go back into racing via the levy in 1991-2 compared with the anticipated £150 million in racing profits for the bookmakers.

The big bookmaking organisations, led by Ladbrokes and the Betting Office Licensees' Association, will howl in protest at any attempt to reduce their take from racing. They will complain they are the victims of a concerted anti-bookmaker campaign, aided and abetted by mischievous and inaccurate reporting based on ignorant statements by racing's leaders and others. *They will even attempt to* show you they are hard done by. Smaller, independent bookmakers may face harsher times; not the Big Three.

With your years of experience in Cabinet, you will have been on the receiving end of similarly unsound arguments used as fact. As before, apply a large pinch of salt and use your judgement.

Altering the financial balance of racing to ensure it receives a proper return for its product will not be straightforward, but is crucial if it is to stand any chance of flourishing. Only this week Sir John Sparrow, the new chairman of the Levy Board, highlighted how any changes to the levy system — and therefore the balance between the amount of punters's cash returning to the sport and going to bookmakers — will require fresh legislation. However, the imminent home affairs select committee investigation into betting, including the levy and the Tote, should prove invaluable in pointing you in the right direction.

In the weeks ahead, you are likely to be bombarded with advice on how to streamline or drastically change racing's ruling infra-*structure*. One idea includes the formation of a British horseracing commission which would oversee three separate functions: the collection and distribution of levy on betting turnover; the regulatory and policing functions currently carried out by the *Jockey Club; and* commercial activities. You must decide if such a fundamental restructuring is needed and, if so, whether it is worth risking the inevitable political flak which would be created.

As you ponder racing's gloomy fortunes during your visit to Ascot this afternoon, have one determination: do not fudge the issue. Millions of pounds in Treasury and export earnings, and thousands of jobs could be saved if you act decisively — and you will go down in racing's history as its saviour.

Best wishes and successful punting.

Richard Evans

SKIING

Downhill quest to conquer Hahnenkamm

From BRIAN JAMES IN KITZBÜHEL

AS A benchmark of Kitzbühel's famous downhill, at the moment of his victory in Kandahar a week ago, Danny Mahrer gasped out what translated as: "Wow. That sets me up for the Hahnenkamm." The Swiss added: "Kitzbühel is the one. Win the world championship and you're merely the best downhiller this day. Win Hahnenkamm, and you are the best in the world."

No one gasping at the finish, after yesterday's final run over sparse snow, of a course they say is harder and more dangerous than in memory, seemed ready to disagree. Rob Boyd, of Canada, said: "Anything you have done elsewhere doesn't matter here. But win this and you can win anywhere."

It needed somebody who had long-since got his breath back to explain Hahnenkamm's special terrors. Konrad Bartelski, Britain's most successful skier of the Seventies and Eighties, obliged: "*I was raised in Kitzbühel* and grew up with the Hahnenkamm. I saw my first races as a kid peering over the fence at chaps like the Aga Khan. The thought that I could do better got me started as a racer."

The piste changed as speeds grew. Some bumps were flattened; straw bales were applied to keep falls from being fatal. Thus Hudson, of the United States, and Arnesen, of Norway, who were injured in training this week, have gone home to recuperate and not to be buried.

"But it is still horrifyingly difficult," Bartelski said. "Mahrer is right, this is the ultimate test, *the* downhill. No world or championship title compares."

Bartelski believes he has skied Hahnenkamm "a million times, if you count the number of runs I have made, yard by yard, in my mind, but scores of times in reality. The last time was seven years ago, but I can shut my eyes and be standing again in the start-box. It comes back, how lost and lonely you are, waiting *to go*.

"Crouched to push off, you see only the horizon between your ski-tips, not the track: that drops away like a church roof from the edge of the box. That's what makes this such a frightener. There's no chance to settle. You dip right and left and leap into a void ... the Mausfalle [mousetrap]."

All this in the first handful of seconds. The appalling Steinhang now looms: "A left-hander leading to a hairpin right. Now a 180-degree swing across ice with negative camber — in other words, your body is trying to fall off the mountain. Your head is trying to shake itself off your shoulders from G-force. Meanwhile, you have to line up for the entrance to a road you can't actually see. Guided now by hope, faith and desperate fear. I have seen slow-motion film of this part: the skis contort, but you also see the skier's tibia actually flex under the forces."

That road is an old woodcutter's path. "If you have got it right, you are crouched at ferocious speed. You don't know if you are ahead tenths of a second, or already washed out. Not that it matters. You carry on, no choice — on the Hahnenkamm, there is just the one way down."

Bartelski details another 80mph traverse, then the Seidlalm: a series of smooth, long bends that cut up horribly and drain energy from skiers trying to keep the line.

Next the Hausberg. "Suddenly you can see Kitzbühel village below you. Now you have 20 seconds of the toughest rock and roll in skiing to endure. It's out of the sun into dense shade, with your skis rattling over ice like corrugated iron, and your mind filled with getting it right for the compression."

You arrive at that "as shot from a cannon", and the shock has your kneecaps dangling like earrings at the side of your head. "Survive that and prepare for the final schuss. Still fractions of time can be picked up, but who's in a fit state to go for them? Weary to death, just keeping skis straight is a triumph when from fingernails up you are aching from the mental effort of just hanging on to the hill.

"The other thing about Hahnenkamm is that, unless they have peeled you off a fence, you don't know whether you have done good or bad. You can have flowed like a river, yet not got the time. Yet what matters at this moment is you have used up two minutes of your life in a way that stays with you always.

"People — outsiders, that is — used to laugh years ago when the best skiers from places like Iran used to come down in terrible times. But no racer ever sniggered. Anyone who does the Hahnenkamm in race conditions ought to be given a medal — just for pushing forward from the box."

At training's end yesterday, Peter Runggaldier, of Italy, had the best time, leading a cohort of the circus's finest, just as he had before the Kandahar. He came nowhere in that race, emphasising the chasm between exercise and ordeal. Especially on the Hahnenkamm.

LEADING PRACTICE TIMES: 1, P Runggaldier (It), 1min 57.70sec; 2, L Stock (Austria), 1:57.92; 3, K Ghedina (It), 1:58.39; 4, R Boyd (Can), 1:58.41; 5, F Heinzer (Switz), 1:58.43; 6, D Mahrer (Switz), 1:58.89; 7, B Fahner (Switz), 1:59.07; 8, P Ortlieb (Austria), 1:59.19; 9, L Alphand (Fr), 1:59.25; 10, M Girardelli (Lux), 1:59.37.

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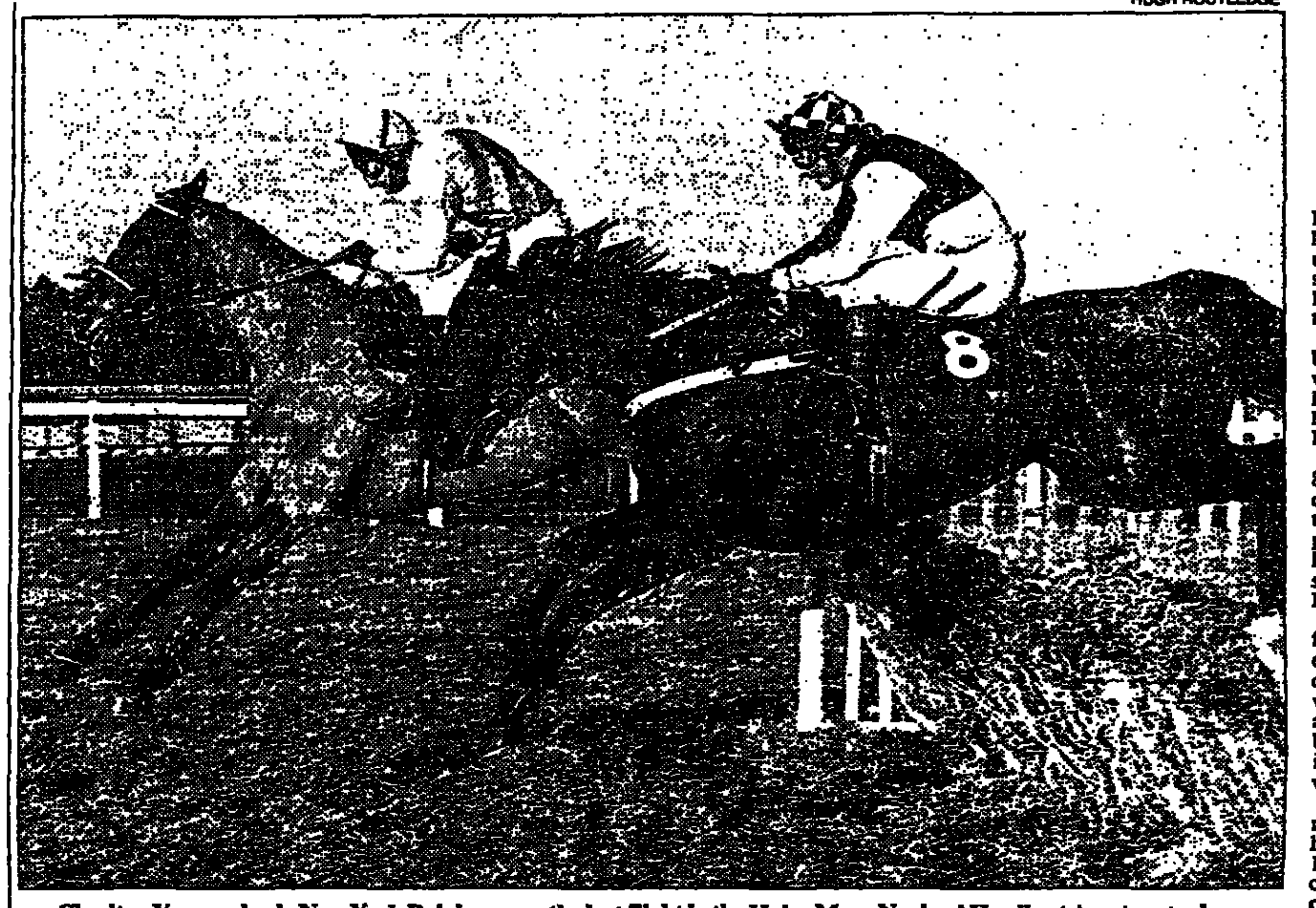

Charlton Yeoman leads New York Rainbow over the last flight in the Hairy Mary Novices' Hurdle at Ascot yesterday

Uncle Ernie earns Arkle Trophy tilt

By MICHAEL SEELY
RACING CORRESPONDENT

UNCLE Ernie put himself on target for an attempt to give Jimmy Fitzgerald and Tony Budge their second Arkle Challenge Trophy in four years when storming home in the PML Lightning Novices' Chase at Ascot yesterday.

As a test of ultimate merit, the royal course's grade two chase was somewhat spoilt by the premature departure of the other strongly-fancied northern challenger, Young Benz, at the third jump. But Buck Willow, at 3-1, was the best-backed horse in the race, and Uncle Ernie had no difficulty in quickening four lengths clear of the runner-up

The cool and professional Mark Dwyer rode his usual thoughtful race on the 2-1 *winner, biding his time before* moving up to challenge the long-time leader on the run to the second fence from home.

"He has got everything a good horse needs," said Fitzgerald after the former Lynda Ramsden-trained six-year-old had remained undefeated in four runs over fences this season. "He jumps and stays so well and has got plenty of speed. It makes it easier for his jockey to settle him in a race."

In 1988, yesterday's winning owner and trainer captured the Nottinghamshire Novices' Chase and the Arkle with the ill-fated Danish Flight. Now Uncle Ernie is also en route to Colwick Park on February 16 for his Cheltenham preliminary.

After the race, the trainer departed for Dublin where Fragrant Dawn runs in The Ladbroke at Leopardstown today. "Fragrant Dawn has improved a lot for his Newbury run, but Wonder Man is going to be a difficult horse to beat," Fitzgerald said.

Jenny Pitman, the trainer of Wonder Man, was also on the best of terms with herself after Ian Lawrence had ridden The A Train to a decisive win over his two opponents in the Bucktail Conditional Jockeys' Handicap Chase.

Earlier this week Mrs Pitman had threatened to withdraw Wonder Man in the event of heavy going. "Apparently they are racing on completely fresh ground and they say the going is soft," she said. "We are going over there on a scouting mission as well. We might return to Leopardstown in February for the Wessel Champion Hurdle."

On an afternoon of high-class performances, the most spectacular was put up by Arctic Call when defying top weight of 11st 10lb in the First National Chase for Oliver Sherwood.

"He never put a foot wrong," said the trainer after the Hennessy winner had outjumped his rivals at virtually every fence

Arctic Call has now earned the right to be entered for the Cheltenham Gold Cup, for which he is 33-1 with Hills. "We'll certainly enter him and probably give him one more run beforehand," said Sherwood. "One thing we have learned after today is that Arctic Call does best when fresh."

Other performances of high merit during the afternoon were put up by Crystal Spirit in the *opening Silver Doctor Novices'* Hurdle and by Charlton Yeoman when capturing the Hairy Mary Novices' Hurdle after his stable companion, Fighting Words, had fallen at the second hurdle from home when still in the lead.

Ian Balding trains Crystal Spirit for Paul Mellon. "It would be nice to try and win a Gold Cup for the owner," said the trainer. "We will only give him two more runs this year. He's in the Bishops Cleeve at Cheltenham — the same race as Beech Road. We'll enter him for the Triumph and the Sun Alliance Hurdle at Cheltenham."

Josh Gifford, delighted at Charlton Yeoman's success, said: "Both my horses were well fancied and I just hope they don't have to meet at Cheltenham."

LINGFIELD PARK

Selections

By Lingfield

12.55 Muloof. 1.25 Quick Ransom. 1.55 Able Jet. 2.25 Doulab's Image. 2.55 Link Market. 3.25 Wizzard Magic. 3.55 Red River Boy.

By Thunderer

12.55 Muloof. 1.25 Meritsu. 1.55 Able Jet. 2.25 Vanroy. 2.55 Boulevard Girl. 3.25 Elhudhud. 3.55 *Hinari Video.*

Going: standard Draw: 5f-1m low numbers best

12.55 COWSLIP MAIDEN STAKES (Div I: 3-Y-O: £2,521: 1m 2f) (12 runners)

1 000- CLASSIC ACCOUNT 65 C Wildman 9-0 .... N Adams 9
2 000- FROZEN FOREST 14 M Johnston 9-0 .... R P Elliott 4
3 000- GABBY HAYES 24 P Mitchell 9-0 .... S O'Gorman (5) 3
4 04-2 KANOOZ 11 (BF) M Prescott 9-0 .... C Nutter 10
5 440- MULOOF 140 P Cole 9-0 .... T Quinn 5
6 0- SOLID STEEL 16 (E) Mrs L Piggott 9-0 .... J Williams 11
7 668- SWERVIN MERVIN 14 D Dutton 9-0 .... Paul Eddery 2
8 002- TWILIGHT FLAME 16 M Channon 9-0 .... C Rutter 12
9 0- JULIETSKI 82 (E) Mrs L Piggott 8-9 .... B Crossley 1
10 004- MISS BURFIELD 16 R Hannon 8-9 .... R Perham (5) 6
11 6U- NIKOZETTE 113 R Armstrong 8-9 .... P Devlin (7) 8
12 000- TROUBLEWITHJACK 51 W Carter 8-9 .... G Carter 7

2-1 Kanooz, 7-2 Twilight Flame, 9-2 Julietski, 11-2 Muloof, 12-1 Miss Burfield, 14-1 others.

1.25 COWSLIP MAIDEN STAKES (Div II: 3-Y-O: £2,499: 1m 2f) (11)

1 000- BRUNSWICK BLUE 198 J Sutcliffe 9-0 Dean McKeown 7
2 05-4 CASTLE MERLIN 8 R Muddle 9-0 .... A Mackay 1
3 0 FRAGILE EARTH 8 C Allen 9-0 .... R Morse 11
4 05-3 GRECIAN REBEL 8 M Bell 9-0 .... J J O'Dwyer (7) 9
5 000- NICE PICTURE 16 R Champion 9-0 .... T Williams 5
6 442- QUICK RANSOM 14 M Johnston 9-0 .... R P Elliott 6
7 ANCHOR INN A Lee 8-9 .... J Quinn 2
8 04-2 MERITSU 7 D Elsworth 8-9 .... J Williams 4
9 3U3- RAINBOW CHASER 16 P Cole 8-9 .... T Quinn 3
10 55- RED SECRET 19 (E) Mrs L Piggott 8-9 .... B Crossley 10
11 0- SLIPSALOM 38 W Carter 8-9 .... G Carter 8

5-4 Quick Ransom, 5-1 Grecian Rebel, 6-1 Rainbow Chaser, 7-1 Meritsu, 10-1 Castle Merlin, 14-1 others.

1.55 BLUEBELL CLAIMING STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,456: 5f) (10)

1 900- VILLAGE PET 16 (D,F) R Bennett 9-7 .... T Quinn 9
2 226- OAK PARK 37 R Stubbs 8-13 .... J Williams 3
3 100- ABLE JET 71 (B,D,F,S) Mrs N Macauley 8-7 Emma O'Gorman (5) 6
4 50- MISS KATANGA 115 J Old 8-6 .... R Fox 1
5 471- SOUTH CROFTY 65 (C,D,F) M Johnston 8-5 R P Elliott 7
6 600- DOMINO TRICK 138 (D,F,G) S Dow 8-2 .... D Biggs (5) 4
7 00-3 PENSERAPH 7 (V) P Howling 7-13 .... C Rutter 8
8 06-5 PETER PUMPKIN 11 (B) R Voorspuy 7-13 S Dawson 2
9 100- SPORTS POST LADY 38 (D,G) C Hill 7-12 .... J Quinn 10
10 00- SNAP BACK 65 S Woodman 7-8 .... N Adams 5

5-2 South Crofty, 11-4 Able Jet, 7-2 Penseraph, 6-1 Sports Post Lady, 8-1 Domino Trick, 14-1 Oak Park, 16-1 others.

2.25 DAFFODIL HANDICAP (£4,824: 1m) (8)

1 43-4 BREEZED WELL 10 (F,G) C Allen 5-10-0 Emma O'Gorman (5) 5
2 211- VANROY 16 (V,CD,F,G,S) J Jenkins 7-9-10 J Williams 2
3 01-2 PYTCHLEY NIGHT 10 (BF,D) D Morris 4-9-6 . S Perks 8
4 120- SHINING JEWEL 16 (CD,F) E Eldin 4-9-1 . B Crossley 7
5 801- INDIAN PLUME 43 (B,D) D Burchell 4-8-11 R Price (5) 4
6 510- BURFORD 11J (D,F) D R Tucker 4-8-11 .... A Dicks 3
7 01-1 DOULAB'S IMAGE 10 (B,D) J Glover 4-8-6 D Biggs (5) 1
8 20-3 COX CREEK 11 P Mitchell 4-7-11 .... S O'Gorman (5) 6

4-1 Doulab's Image, 5-1 Vanroy, 6-1 Cox Creek, Burford, 8-1 Pytchley Night, Indian Plume, Breezed Well, 10-1 other.

2.55 VIOLET HANDICAP (£3,213: 1m 5f) (8)

1 84-3 BANKROLL 11 (F) C Cyzer 4-9-10 .... Dean McKeown 5
2 202- LINK MARKET 16 (CD,F) M Ryan 5-9-8 .... G Carter 1
3 051- BOULEVARD GIRL 15 (C,F,G,S) C Booth 6-9-7 P A Johnson (7) 2
4 800- CATHOS 18 (CD,F,G,S) D Wilson 6-9-2 .... J Williams 3
5 120- NODOLYA 82 (G) J Fitch-Heyes 4-8-13 .... A Mackay 6
6 /8-6 DARK HERITAGE 7 (C,F,G) D Murray Smith 8-8-6 Paul Eddery 8
7 400- KOVALEVSKIA 16 (C,F,G,S) D Wilson 6-8-5 T Williams 4
8 300- GLENSTAL ABBEY 2J (B) R Akehurst 5-8-3 . T Quinn 7

11-4 Boulevard Girl, 3-1 Link Market, 4-1 Bankroll, 7-1 Cathos, 9-1 Nodolya, 12-1 others.

3.25 PRIMROSE HANDICAP (£2,629: 1m 2f) (14)

1 000- CHAFF 189 D Morris 4-9-11 .... S Perks 2
2 23-2 WIZZARD MAGIC 11 (V,C,D,F) M Haynes 6-9-9 T Williams 3
3 032- ELHUDHUD 12J (B) R Stubbs 4-9-8 .... J Williams 10
4 005- DANCING BREEZE 30 Pat Mitchell 4-9-7 Ron Hills (3) 13
5 340- SAN ROQUE 79 (CD,F) D Wilson 6-9-4 .... B Crossley 12
6 050- PATIENCE CREEK 53 (S) C Wildman 5-9-4 Emma O'Gorman (5) 8
7 060- BIT OF A LASS 231 (CD,F) D Arbuthnot 5-9-3 Dean McKeown 11
8 000- GREAT HAND 75 (D,F) D Wilson 5-9-3 .... G Carter 6
9 002- GOZONE 30 P Mitchell 4-9-2 .... S O'Gorman (5) 9
10 03-0 MADAM JAC 11 R Akehurst 5-9-1 .... T Quinn 5
11 /0-0 PALMION 7 (F,S) R Curtis 9-8-0 .... N Marshall (5) 7
12 00/4 SAND-DOLLAR 7 (F) J Old 8-8-13 .... R Fox 4
13 800- SUNWIND 191 J Sutcliffe 5-8-12 .... N Adams 1
14 00-0 SARUM 7 (C,F) C Wildman 5-8-10 .... C Rutter 14

7-2 Wizzard Magic, 9-2 Elhudhud, 13-2 Patience Creek, 7-1 Madam Jac, 8-1 Sand-Dollar, 10-1 Sunwind, 12-1 others.

3.55 POPPY APPRENTICE HANDICAP (£2,477: 6f) (8)

1 23-3 SALLY'S SON 8 (B,BF,C,F) W O'Gorman 5-9-10 Emma O'Gorman 8
2 650- ELEGANT ROSE 14 (B,CD,G) O O'Neill 5-9-10 G Husband 4
3 005- HINARI VIDEO 53 (C,D,G,S) M Johnston 6-9-8 Mich Donaro 1
4 100- ORLEANS GIRL 61 (D,G) R Hodges 4-9-5 .... T Sprake 2
5 4-34 MURMURING 7 (CD) S Dow 5-9-3 .... D Biggs 5
6 302- ERIK ODIN 15 (C) Mrs L Piggott 4-9-1 Beverly Bred (5) 3
7 65-1 RED RIVER BOY 7 (C,F,G,S) R Hodges 8-9-1 A Tucker 7
8 508- VERRO 12J J Bennett 4-8-2 .... F Norton 6

11-4 Red River Boy, 7-2 Sally's Son, 5-1 Erik Odin, 11-2 Murmuring, 7-1 Elegant Rose, 8-1 Hinari Video, 10-1 others.

Course specialists

TRAINERS: M Prescott, 15 winners from 52 runners, 28.8%; W O'Gorman, 13 from 53, 24.5%; M Johnston, 4 from 19, 21.1%; D Murray Smith, 12 from 70, 17.1%; P Cole, 25 from 149, 16.8%; D Burchell, 3 from 18, 16.7%.

JOCKEYS: G Husband, 4 winners from 12 rides, 33.3%; C Nutter, 4 from 15, 26.7%; S O'Gorman, 15 from 72, 20.8%; Emma O'Gorman, 4 from 21, 19.0%; R P Elliott, 3 from 20, 15.0%; T Quinn, 41 from 290, 14.1%.

Blinkered first time

LINGFIELD PARK: 12.55 Solid Steel. 1.25 Anchor Inn.

Riverhead looks a Ladbroke blot

FROM OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT, DUBLIN

DAVID Elsworth, the only English trainer to win The Ladbroke under its present sponsorship, saddles both Riverhead and Imperial Brush at Leopardstown today.

Riverhead could turn out to be a blot on the handicap in which, collectively speaking, English entries were treated with heart-warming generosity by the Irish assessor.

Riverhead, who has only 10st 8lb and gets 20lb from Redundant Pal, winner of this race for the past two years, was whispered as a Champion Hurdle long-shot before he made his *seasonal reappearance at* Kempton over Christmas.

His effort there, in finishing fourth behind Fidway, was most encouraging. Neither could it be deemed a fluke as the 6½ lengths which separated them was virtually identical to the margin between them when they finished first and fourth at level weights at Liverpool in April.

Since ante-post betting on the race started, Wonder Man has headed the market. He carried *12 stone to a four-length win* over Old Virginia at Kempton on Boxing Day and is now trying for his fourth successive victory of the season.

Jenny Pitman will have been heartened by the overnight forecast of yielding to soft going after a predicted overnight frost.

Fragrant Dawn finished third to Redundant Pal last year but a better each-way English prospect may be the Josh Gifford-trained Persian Style. He has a tendency to burst blood vessels but, with a trouble-free run today, should be in the final shake-up. When he met Wonder Man at Sandown at the beginning of December he was then handicapped to give 1lb; now he *receives 19lb.*

Redundant Pal has done the sponsors a good turn for the last two years but Paddy Mullins will be surprised if he completes the treble under top weight.

A better-fancied Irish runner is The Illiad, who ended a four-year losing run with a successful Christmas gamble over course and distance.

As Riverhead meets Wonder Man on 6lb better terms than he *is due to in the Tote Gold Trophy at Newbury next* month, he has to be the selection.

BIG RACE FIELD

Going: yielding to soft **BBC1 & SIS**

1.45 THE LADBROKE (Handicap hurdle: Ir£28,950: 2m) (18 runners)

1 -1412F REDUNDANT PAL 7 (CD,S) (P O'Neill) P Mullins 8-12-0 .... C O'Dwyer
2 13-112 ATHY SPIRIT 55F (CD,F,G,S) (W Fennin) W Fennin 6-11-10 .... J Banahan
3 534013 WELSH BARD 14 (CD,G,S) (T Lacy) T Lacy 7-11-9 .... Mr A E Lacy
4 0-F111 WONDER MAN 17 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs E Robins) Mrs J Pitman 6-11-6 .. M Pitman
5 8521-0 RARE HOLIDAY 86 (D,F) (M Smurfit) D Weld 5-11-4 .... B Sheridan
6 1-F034 BALLY RUE 14 (CD,F,S) (E Kearns) J Bolger 5-11-1 .... Mr A P O'Brien
7 0-2113 JOYFUL NOISE 17 (CD,BF,G,S) (S Wood) A Moore 6-10-13 .... T J Taaffe
8 0/55-1 THE ILLIAD 15 (CD,G,S) (Mrs E Furlong) A Geraghty 10-10-13 P McWilliams
9 1304-1 TAWKIN 55F (CD,S) (D Tierney) A Moore 6-10-10 .... C F Swan
10 413-4F FRAGRANT DAWN 14 (D,BF,G,S) (W O'Gorman) Jimmy Fitzgerald 7-10-9 M Dwyer
11 651022 JENNYCOMEQUICK 14 (CD,G,S) (S Corscadden) W Mullins 5-10-9 A Powell
12 1164-4 RIVERHEAD 16 (D,S) (White Horse Racing Ltd) D Elsworth 7-10-8 G Bradley
13 11F1-2 NANCY MYLES 55 (CD,G,S) (Foster & Allen Syndicate) F Flood 6-10-5 Mr F Flood
14 TFP-03 PERSIAN STYLE 11 (D,G,S) (J Hopkins) J Gifford 7-10-1 .... R Rowe
15 121313 TRIMLOUGH 14 (D,G,S) (F Taaffe) A Mullins 6-10-1 .... A Mullins
16 4-1351 BAWNMORE LAD 16 (D,S) (Shannonside Racing) A McNamara 6-10-0 G O'Neill
17 -11101 DONODE 31 (D,S) (P Barrett) P Barrett 5-10-0 .... H Taylor
18 3348-3 IMPERIAL BRUSH 14 (B,D,G,S) (P Pulton) D Elsworth 7-10-0 .... P Holley

BETTING: 3-1 Wonder Man, 9-2 Riverhead, 6-1 Fragrant Dawn, 8-1 Joyful Noise, 10-1 The Illiad, Persian Style, 12-1 Tawkin, 14-1 Bawnmore Lad, 16-1 others.

1990: REDUNDANT PAL 7-11-5 C O'Dwyer (20-1) P Mullins ran

WONDER MAN ridden out to beat Old Virginia 4l at Kempton (2m, good to soft); previously beat Stratford Ponds 3½l at Ascot (2m, good to firm).

RARE HOLIDAY led close home to beat Ninja ½l in Triumph Hurdle at Cheltenham (2m, good to firm) with **BALLY RUE** (3lb better off) 10½l 9th.

THE ILLIAD beat Boro Smackeroo 5l over course and distance (heavy). **TAWKIN** beat **ATHY SPIRIT** (3lb better off) 2½l over course and distance (2m, yielding to soft) with **BAWNMORE LAD** (4lb better off) neck 3rd, **WELSH BARD** (1lb better off) 6l 4th and **JENNYCOMEQUICK** (1lb worse off) 6th.

RIVERHEAD never nearer 6½l 4th to Fidway in grade 1 contest at Kempton (2m, good). **IMPERIAL BRUSH** one-paced 3l 3rd to Honest Word at Newbury (2m 100yd, good to soft) with **FRAGRANT DAWN** (11lb better off) 4th and beaten when fell last.

Selection: RIVERHEAD (nap)

Results from yesterday's four meetings

Ascot

Going: good to soft (chase course); soft (hurdles)

1.0 (2m 4f hdle) 1, **CRYSTAL SPIRIT** (J Frost, evens fav); 2, Chateauneuf (L Harvey, 9-1); 2, Sureset (S Burrough, 14-1). ALSO RAN: 11-2 Kaleidos (5th), 13-2 Great Mill (4th), 9 Goldkrone (pu), 33 Scarlet Express (pu), Harlequin Lad (pu), Trojan Call (pu), 66 Tistam (pu). 10 ran. 25l, 2l, 20l, nk. I Balding at Kingsclere. Tote: £2.00; £1.40, £1.60, £4.20. DF: £7.30. CSF: £10.17.

1.35 (2m ch) 1, **THE A TRAIN** (I Lawrence, 2-1); 2, Infinity Rules (N Mann, 15-8); 3, South Pool (N Hawke, 13-8 fav). 3 ran. 1½l, dist. Mrs J Pitman at Upper Lambourn. Tote: £2.50. DF: £2.50. CSF: £5.10.

2.10 (2m hdle) 1, **CHARLTON YEOMAN** (R Rowe, 6-1); 2, New York Rainbow (R Dunwoody, 5-4 fav), 3, Oneupmanship (P Holley, 8-1). ALSO RAN: 8 Fighting Words (ur), 20 Kiwi L'Eglise (f), 25 Frickley (6th), 33 Obie's Train (5th), Mayfair Minx (4th), Threewaygirl (f), 40 Ahsavei (pu), Gratuity, 66 Easter Imp (pu). 12 ran. 1½l, 6l, 12l, 10l, 7l. J Gifford at Findon. Tote: £6.50; £2.50, £1.50, £1.60. DF: £7.60. CSF: £12.91.

2.40 (2m ch) 1, **UNCLE ERNIE** (M Dwyer, 2-1); 2, Buck Willow (R Rowe, 3-1); 3, Xhal (W Morris, 66-1). ALSO RAN: 11-8 fav Young Benz (f), 10-1 L B Laughs (f), 50 African Safari (4th). 6 ran. 4l, dist, 12l. Jimmy Fitzgerald at Malton. Tote: £2.80; £1.80, £1.80. DF: £4.30. CSF: £8.05.

3.10 (3m ch) 1, **ARCTIC CALL** (J Osborne, 2-1); 2, Solidasarock (L Harvey, 3-1); 3, Aloms Success (R Dunwoody, 7-4 fav). ALSO RAN: 16 Bob Tisdall (f), Midnight Count (4th), 20 Bishops Yarn (pu). 6 ran. 7l, 2l, 5l. O Sherwood at Upper Lambourn. Tote: £2.90; £1.70, £2.50. DF: £5.60. CSF: £7.89.

3.40 (3m hdle) 1, **KING'S CURATE** (Mr D Gray, 8-1); 2, Backer's Gossip (R Dunwoody, 25-1); 3, More Fool You (S Earle, 20-1); 4, Os Ele Brief (M Pitman, 6-2 fav). ALSO RAN: 7 Westway (f), 9 Auk Eye (f), 10 Boscean Chieftain, 12 Combermere (5th), Burgoyne, 16 Vagador, Just As Hopeful (pu), 25 Dubber, L Ennui, Marradong Brook, None So Wise (f), 33 Nodform (8th), 50 Saema. 16 ran. 12l, 1l, 4l, 2½l, 4l. S Mellor at Swindon. Tote: £10.70; £2.60, £3.60, £3.70, £1.20. DF: £128.30. CSF: £166.70. Tricast: £3,466.40.

Jackpot: £1,686.80.

Placepot: £54.60.

Wetherby

Going: soft

1.0 (2m hdle) 1, Lady Remainder (R Hodge, 5-2 fav); 2, Far More (3-1); 3, Spider Woman (8-1). 13 ran. 5l, 2½l. Mrs J Ramsden. Tote: £3.60; £1.40, £2.10, £1.90. DF: £5.70. CSF: £11.12. No bid.

1.30 (3m 100yd ch) 1, *Bow Handy Man* (P Waggott, 16-1); 2, Ink Splash 2-1 (fav); 3, Trumpet Player (9-1). 8 ran. 4l, dist. Denys Smith. *Tote: £16.20; £2.10, £1.60, £2.00.* DF: £20.90. CSF: £47.98.

2.0 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Cab On Target (P Niven, 2-9 fav; Mandarin's nap); 2, Westwell Boy (33-1); 3, Mount Alley (33-1). 13 ran. 8l, 1l. Mrs G Reveley at Saltburn. Tote: £1.30; £1.10, £4.40, £8.30. DF: £51.50. CSF: £18.34.

2.30 (3m 100yd ch) 1, Boreen Owen (T Reed, 2-1 fav), 2, Forest Ranger (11-4); 3, Samlan (9-4). 4 ran. 10l, 2½l. J O'Neill. Tote: £2.70. DF: £2.60. CSF: £7.13.

3.0 (2m hdle) 1, Cosmic Ray (J Corkell, 8-1); 2, *Full Monty* (9-1); 3, Icarus (9-2). Kind's Smart 85-40 fav. 8 ran. 3½l, ½l. Mrs V Aconley. Tote: £11.50; £1.90, £1.70, £1.70. DF: £30.80. CSF: £67.57. Tricast: £329.68.

3.30 (2m 4f 100yd ch) 1, Gaelic Cherry (M Jones, 9-2); 2, Narana (8-1). Back Before Dark 4-5 fav. 4 ran. Only two finished 2½l. R Francis. Tote: £4.00. DF: £9.40. CSF: £25.46.

4.0 (2m hdle) 1, Pink Gin (P Niven, 9-1); 2, *Tyburn Lad* (9-1); 3, *Dawadar* 4-8 fav) 6 ran. 7l, ½l. Miss S Hall. Tote: £4.60, £2.50, £1.30. DF: £14.20. CSF: £68.03.

Placepot: £191.20.

Edinburgh

Going: good (soft on bends)

12.45 (2m hdle) 1, Cumbrian Ceilidh (F Perratt, 85-40); 2, Jumby Bay (8-1); 3, Key Dear (16-1). Rievaulx 5-4 fav. 13 ran. 20l, 3l. L Lungo. Tote: £3.40; £1.80, £3.90, £3.20. DF: £15.90. CSF: £19.18.

1.15 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Valiant Dash (C Quinn, 2-1); 2, Pennill (9-4); 3, Eurocon (7-4 fav). 5 ran. 20l, 12l. S Kettlewell. Tote: £2.80; £1.60, no dividend declared. DF: £3.30. CSF: £6.11.

1.45 (2m 4f ch) 1, Bobbie Stack (G Bradley, 5-2); 2, Master Salesman (7-4 fav); 3, Hard To Hold (11-2) 6 ran 2½l, 15l. J O'Neill. Tote: £3.60; £1.20, £1.10. DF: £3.20. CSF: £7.27.

2.15 (2m hdle) 1, Souter's Hill (C Hawkins, 2-1 fav); 2, *Prince Bishop* (10-1); 3, Raween (5-2) 6 ran 3½l, 1½l. T Craig. Tote: £2.50; £1.80, £2.20. DF: £26.80. CSF: £17.41.

2.45 (3m ch) 1, Scalraing Dale (L O'Hara, 2-1 fav); 2, Brushford (33-1); 3, Vanzard (10-1). 10 ran. 7l, 15l. P Monteith. Tote: £2.30; £1.60, £8.80, £4.40. DF: £28.20. CSF: £47.62.

3.15 (3m hdle) 1, Tharsis (A J Quinn, 3-1); 2, Carousel Calypso (7-4 fav); 3, Gurteen Boy (7-2). 6 ran. ½l, 25l. W Bentley. Tote: £5.30; £4.20, £1.10. DF: £3.00. CSF: £7.84. Placepot: £17.60.

Southwell

Going: standard

1.20 (1m 6f) 1, Lafkadio (Mr P Close, 9-2 fav); 2, Cosmic Dancer (8-1); 3, Carnos (7-1). 13 ran. 3½l, 3l. M Chapman. Tote: £4.90; £2.50, £1.80, £3.20. DF: £13.60. CSF: £38.63. Tricast: £229.56.

1.50 (1m 3f) 1, Tempering (D Nicholls, 4-7 fav); 2, Bedouin Prince (7-1); 3, Asturias (12-1). 12 ran. 2l, 5l. D Chapman. Tote: £1.90; £1.10, £2.00, £3.50. DF: £3.20. CSF: £8.33. Tricast: £28.29.

2.20 (1m) 1, Will He Or Wont He (R Morse, 10-1); 2, Carrolls Marc (5-1); 3, Kinoko (20-1) Riverain 9-4 fav. 10 ran. Hd, 3l. C Allen. Tote: £11.20; £1.90, £1.60, £4.40 DF: £29.40. CSF: £56.75.

2.50 (1m) 1, Predictable (Alex Greaves, 25-1); 2, African Chimes (4-1 jt-fav); 3, Evening Star (11-2). Vintage Type 4-1 jt-fav. 14 ran. Sh hd, 3l. Mrs A Knight. Tote: £25.40; £5.50, £1.50, £2.20. DF: £53.80. CSF: £114.07. Tricast: £590.45.

3.20 (7f) 1, Charly Pharly (R Lappin, 20-1); 2, Broad Story (20-1); 3, Euroblake (4-1). Darcy's Thatcher 7-2 fav. 14 ran. NR: Regina Royale. ¾l, nk. F Lee. Tote: £15.30; £6.70, £6.30, £2.10. DF (winner or second with any other): £3.30. CSF: £265.42. Threshfield (7-1) withdrawn, not under orders — rule 4 applies to all bets, deduction 10p in pound.

3.50 (7f) 1, *Just A Look* (G Carter, 6-1); 2, Damaaz (7-1); 3, *Pesidanamich* (5-2 fav). 7 ran. ¾l, ½l. D Murray Smith. Tote: £7.20; £2.30, £5.40. DF: £30.80. CSF: £38.59.

Placepot: £441.90.

Racing next week

MONDAY: Fontwell Park, Carlisle, Southwell (AW).

TUESDAY: Folkestone, Sedgefield, Lingfield Park (AW).

WEDNESDAY: Windsor, Ludlow, Southwell (AW).

THURSDAY: Taunton, Lingfield Park (AW).

FRIDAY: Kempton Park, Catterick, Towcester, Southwell (AW).

SATURDAY: Kempton Park, Haydock Park, Catterick, Warwick, Lingfield Park (AW).

(Flat meetings in bold)

RAPID RACELINE

0898 168+

BETTING GUIDE / FAST RESULTS / COMMENTARY

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ALL GREYHOUND RESULTS + 222
RAPID SOCCERLINE + 150

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Desert Orchid to raise the roof

By MANDARIN
(MICHAEL PHILLIPS)

DESERT Orchid is taken to win the grade two Victor Chandler Handicap Chase at Ascot today, even though it means racing over only two miles again relatively soon after winning over three at Kempton on Boxing Day.

Two years ago he showed that it could be done when he gave Panto Prince 22lb and a head beating in one of the most exciting races it has been my privilege to watch.

On that occasion he had also already won the King George VI Chase at Kempton. One can take for granted the fact that his trainer, David Elsworth, who has green fingers when it comes to dealing with horses, would not be following this particular path unless he was reasonably confident about the outcome.

It is certainly extraordinary to be fancying a horse who has won a Gold Cup, a Whitbread, and an Irish Grand National, not to mention the King George four times, for a top-class handicap over the minimum trip.

But, when he is right, Desert Orchid is a law unto himself and he was clearly not himself when he finished 20 lengths behind Young Snugfit in the Tingle Creek Chase at Sandown on December 1. Yet, there he was at Kempton only four weeks later, winning the Boxing Day feature a record fourth time.

Elsworth said all along that Desert Orchid was not ready to do himself justice at Sandown. But as Boxing Day drew closer, the confidence at Whitsbury increased. And it proved well founded.

Now, following that 12-length defeat of Toby Tobias, they are equally strong. In contrast Young Snugfit cut a sorry figure at Wetherby two days after Christmas, trailing in 15 lengths behind Waterloo Boy to whom he had earlier given a sound beating at Sandown.

It is my contention that Desert Orchid has the capacity to outstay even a fit and fancied Young Snugfit now that rain has arrived in quantity to deaden the ground.

As the other three runners will be carrying between 6lb and 14lb more than they were allotted in the long handicap, they should not be capable of winning a race of this nature unless their current ratings are well wide of the mark.

In going nap on State Jester to win the Teal and Green Handicap Hurdle, I am well aware that I have chosen one of the day's most open races. However, this is the horse who won the very valuable Swinton Insurance Brokers Trophy at Haydock two seasons ago. Last season State Jester was restricted to just one race because his trainer, Bill Elsey, was concerned about his tendons.

As a result, he was fired as a precaution, although he did not actually break down. When making a triumphant comeback at Ayr ten days ago, State Jester proved that he is certainly as good as ever and, with that race behind him, I now expect him to go on to even better things: this time at the expense of Elder Prince, Old Virginia, and Olveston.

Rodeo Star (12.50) and Blazing Walker (1.25) are, in common with State Jester, other likely winners on the Berkshire track who have made the long trek south. Blazing Walker, who has impressed on his last two visits to Ascot from Co Durham, where he is trained by Arthur Stephenson, is unlikely to be stopped by top weight in the Grosvenor Insurance Handicap Chase.

The conditions of the Peter Ross Novices' Chase would appear to be tailor-made to suit Henrietta Knight's consistent eight-year old Whats The Crack, while New Duds can regain the winning trail in the Durham Ranger Novices' Hurdle after that expensive and disappointing defeat at Newbury in November.

● Tommy Carmody has been released by John Mulhern from duties at Leopardstown to partner Blitzkreig in today's Victor Chandler Handicap Chase at Ascot.

ASCOT

Selections

By Mandarin
12.50 Rodeo Star.
1.25 Blazing Walker.
2.00 Desert Orchid.
2.35 New Duds.
3.05 Whats The Crack.
3.40 STATE JESTER (nap).

By Thunderer
12.50 Switch.
1.25 POLYFEMUS (nap).
2.00 Desert Orchid.
2.35 New Duds.
3.05 Givus A Buck.
3.40 State Jester.

Michael Seely's selection: 2.00 DESERT ORCHID (nap).

Going: good to soft (chase course); soft (hurdles) SIS

12.50 PHILIP CORNES NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: £3,782: 2m 4f) (25 runners) BBC1

101	3-51	BIGNOR HILL 36 (D,F) (M Pinto) J Gifford 5-11-8	E McKinley	72
102	1P/1133	DANNY CONNORS 14 (D,G,S) (J McManus) J J O'Neill 7-11-8	L Wyer	97
103	0-33130	POLAR VISION 12 (CD,F) (R Berenson) C Elsey 5-11-8	M Richards	77
104	61	DRUMHEAD 17 (V,D,S) (A Oldrey) P Walwyn 5-11-4	J Osborne	73
105	3P0-361	PEAJADE 14 (G,S) (Mrs P Vernon) M Robinson 7-11-4	D Murphy	77
106	11	RODEO STAR 17 (G,S) (J Bradbury) N Tinkler 5-11-4	G McCourt	98
107	212113	SECRET FOUR 21 (D,F,G) (Mrs J Sturgis) R Akehurst 5-11-4	L Harvey	94
108	420-341	SINGLESOLE 17 (B,D,S) (Mrs P Sly) Mrs P Sly 6-11-4	A Carroll	76
109	P06-00P	BONUS BOY 12 (V) (J Scutt) A Chamberlain 6-11-0	R Goldstein	—
110	630-00F	CITY KID 15 (Pell-mell Partners) J Gifford 6-11-0	M Lawrence	73
111	6	HAND BASIN 22 (Mrs J Spielman) R Holder 6-11-0	E Byrne	—
112		LUTHIOR 158F (T Painting) R Simpson 5-11-0	W Morris	—
113	/06/0/0	MAWDLYN GATE 45 (Mrs V Teal) Mrs V Teal 8-11-0	Mr R Teal (7)	—
114	261-323	MERRY MASTER 14 (F) (G Lansbury) R Armytage 7-11-0	Gee Armytage	73
115	B362/22-	MONTAGNARD 371 (N Gill) M Bradstock 7-11-0	—	91
116	60	MOORCROFT BOY 44 (Mrs H Manley) C Roach 6-11-0	B Powell	61
117	8	PAR FOR THE COURSE 70 (M Jackson Bloodstock Ltd) G Balding 6-11-0	J Frost	—
118	P004-P4	RATHMICHAEL 37 (B) (P Heywood) W G Turner 5-11-0	N Hawke (3)	53
119	P	SPARTAN TIMES 14 (G Beccle) J Fox 7-11-0	H Davies	—
120	63	SWITCH 17 (N Dempster) C Brooks 5-11-0	B de Haan	● 99
121	2060P-0	TEE QU 58 (F) (T Quality Ltd) J King 6-11-0	—	62
122	0-305	THATS THE BUSINESS 15 (Mrs M Kerr-Dineen) G Balding 7-11-0	R Dunwoody	59
123	4	WAY OF LIFE 12 (T Hemmings) S Mellor 6-11-0	M Perrett	76
124	P	HELEN ELIZABETH 21 (D Bass) Miss L Bower 6-10-9	R Rowell	—
125	P0	ZOFTIG 44 (J Barr) J Davies 5-10-9	M Ahern (3)	—

BETTING: 5-2 Danny Connors, 4-1 Rodeo Star, 5-1 Switch, 6-1 Bignor Hill, 8-1 Drumhead, 10-1 Secret Four, 12-1 Polar Vision, Peajade, 14-1 Montagnard, 16-1 others.

1990: BEAU PARI 6-11-4 E Murphy (20-1) J Gifford 15 ran

FORM FOCUS BIGNOR HILL beat Dickie's Gin ¾l at Cheltenham (2m 4f, good to firm) with POLAR VISION (7lb better off) 7l 3rd. DANNY CONNORS 27l 3rd to Tyrone Bridge in grade I contest at Newbury (2m 4f 120yd, good to soft); earlier 5¾l 3rd to Ruling at Haydock (2m, good to soft).
DRUMHEAD led close home to defeat Brave Setanta 1½l at Huntingdon (2m 4f, soft). PEAJADE driven out to beat Royle Speedmaster 2½l at Folkestone (2m 6f, soft). RODEO STAR comfortably beat No More The Fool 15l at Wetherby (2m, soft). SECRET FOUR creditable 9l 3rd of 20 to Upton Park at Chepstow (2m 4f, good). MONTAGNARD 5l 2nd to Fort Noel at Haydock (2m 6f, heavy). SWITCH stepped up on earlier efforts to finish 10¾l 3rd to Gassid at Kempton (2m, good).
Selection: DANNY CONNORS

1.25 GROSVENOR INSURANCE HANDICAP CHASE (£11,160: 2m 4f) (8 runners) BBC1

201	2-21111	BLAZING WALKER 26 (CD,F,G,S) (P Piller) W A Stephenson 7-12-0	C Grant	96
202	33/115P-	POLYFEMUS 280 (F,G) (G Johnson) M Robinson 9-11-0	H Davies	93
203	3254-53	BALLYHANE 14 (CD,F,G,S) (H Joel) J Gifford 10-10-12	D Murphy	94
204	4-41122	KARAKTER REFERENCE 28 (D,F) (B Bolton) R O'Sullivan 9-10-7	D O'Sullivan (5)	● 99
205	3221P-P	WITHY BANK 7 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs S Smith) Mrs S Smith 9-10-4	R Strange	96
206	202-212	CERTAIN STYLE 17 (D,G,S) (P Stamp) O Sherwood 8-10-2	J Osborne	98
207	150-424	WINK GULLIVER 21 (C,F,S) (Mrs T Moriarty) D Elsworth 7-10-0	R Arnott	97
208	1/4PP3-3	IRON GRAY 12 (F,S) (Mrs J Mould) N Twiston-Davies 9-10-0	B Powell	91

Long handicap: Wink Gulliver 9-12, Iron Gray 9-4.

BETTING: 15-8 Blazing Walker, 7-2 Certain Style, 5-1 Polyfemus, 6-1 Karakter Reference, 8-1 Ballyhane, 10-1 Wink Gulliver, 25-1 Withy Bank, 33-1 Iron Gray.

1990: TEN OF SPADES 10-11-2 K Mooney (20-1) F Walwyn 8 ran

FORM FOCUS BLAZING WALKER beat Ther-An-Bharr 2l here (2m, good to firm); previously defeated Full Strength 3l over course and distance (good to firm). POLYFEMUS beat Brown Windsor nk at Newbury (3m 2f 82yd, good) last term.
BALLYHANE 23½l 3rd to Party Politics over 3m 2f 82yd at Newbury (good); has claims on 7l 2nd to Zuko here (3m, good). KARAKTER REFERENCE 2l 2nd to Man O'Magic here (3m, good to firm). CERTAIN STYLE 8l 2nd to Skipping Tim at Wincanton (2m 5f, good); previously beat WINK GULLIVER (5lb better off) 10l at Lingfield (2m 4f, good).
Selection: BALLYHANE

2.0 VICTOR CHANDLER HANDICAP CHASE (Grade II: £30,282: 2m) (5 runners) BBC1

301	131-241	DESERT ORCHID 17 (CD,F,G,S) (R Burridge) D Elsworth 12-12-0	R Dunwoody	97
302	322-212	YOUNG SNUGFIT 18 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (J Poynton) O Sherwood 7-10-11	J Osborne	● 99
303	12-2U12	BLITZKREIG 15 (D,BF,G,S) (J McManus) E O'Grady (Ire) 8-10-4	T Carmody	96
304	213-412	KATABATIC 16 (D,BF,F,G,S) (Pell-mell Partners) A Turnell 8-10-4	G McCourt	92
305	12-4113	HOGMANAY 28 (CD,F,G) (Mrs R Casey) R Casey 9-10-4	H Davies	88

Long handicap: Blitzkreig 9-12, Katabatic 9-8, Hogmanay 9-4.

BETTING: 7-4 Desert Orchid, 11-4 Young Snugfit, 3-1 Blitzkreig, 9-2 Katabatic, 16-1 Hogmanay.

1990: MEIKLEOUR 11-10-0 D Byrne (10-1) Jimmy Fitzgerald 10 ran

FORM FOCUS DESERT ORCHID left in lead 13th and kept on strongly to beat Toby Tobias 12l in the King George Chase at Kempton (3m, good to soft); earlier 8l 2nd to Sabin Du Loir at Devon (2m 1f, good).
YOUNG SNUGFIT 15l 2nd to Waterloo Boy at Wetherby (2m 50yd, soft): previously beat Sabin Du Loir 2l at Sandown (2m 18yd, good to firm) with DESERT ORCHID (4lb better off) 18l 4th.
BLITZKREIG 1l 2nd to Cahervillahow at Leopardstown (2m 4f, heavy); previously beat Astral River 10l at Navan (2m, heavy). KATABATIC 4l 2nd to Gold Options at Kempton (2m 4f, good); previously beat Waterloo Boy 1½l at Haydock (2m, soft). HOGMANAY 5¾l 2nd to Blazing Walker over course and distance (good to firm); earlier beat YOUNG SNUGFIT (2lb better off) 1l at Newbury (2m, firm).
Selection: DESERT ORCHID

2.35 DURHAM RANGER NOVICES HURDLE (£3,947: 2m) (18 runners)

401	113	NEW DUDS 66 (D,BF,F) (R Brichart) M Pipe 7-12-0	J Lower	● 99
402	1	PRIME DISPLAY 11 (D,S) (C Heath) O Sherwood 5-11-12	J Osborne	94
403	0005-	ATHASSEL ABBEY 474 (Donaghmoyne Racing Club) Miss L Bower 5-11-9	R Rowell	—
404		BLAZING TOUCH 476F (T Painting) C Brooks 5-11-9	B de Haan	—
405	00-U	DEEP KASH 36 (K Manley) C Roach 6-11-9	B Powell	—
406	FP-02	DRAMATIC EVENT 65 (H Harley) J Moore 6-11-9	A Charlton	82
407		HAWWAM 77F (T Hemmings) S Mellor 5-11-9	M Perrett	—
408		JOSEPH 813F (P Simpson) Miss H Knight 7-11-9	B Dowling	—
409		MEADOW COTTAGE (A Ilsley) J Gifford 5-11-9	M Lawrence	—
410	P	MITNER 17 (A Del-Giudice) G Balding 8-11-9	J Frost	—
411		NICKSLINE (M Pinto) J Gifford 5-11-9	E McKinley	—
412	6	SOLO ARTIST 11 (M Morrison) R Simpson 6-11-9	W Morris	69
413	04-	SUPER SENSE 271 (Miss N Hughes) J Gifford 6-11-9	D Murphy	73
414	506-031	KATIE SCARLETT 12 (D,S) (Mrs M Bryce-Smith) J Bridger 5-11-7	I Lawrence	68
415	42	KTOLO 17 (R Bids Ltd) R Akehurst 5-11-4	L Harvey	79
416	221	ACCESS SUN 16 (D,F) (M McBride) J King 4-10-13	J Kavanagh (3)	90
417	FF5	BEHIND THE CLOCK 15 (T Jones) T Jones 4-10-10	T Grantham	76
418	0	FREDDIE'S STAR 14 (R Bennett) R Bennett 4-10-10	P Corrigan	—

BETTING: 2-1 New Duds, 7-2 Prime Display, 6-1 Access Sun, 8-1 Nicksline, Blazing Touch, 10-1 Ktolo, 12-1 Hawwam, 14-1 Dramatic Event, 20-1 others.

1990: EGYPT MILL 5-11-12 M Bowlby (6-4) Mrs J Pitman 9 ran

FORM FOCUS NEW DUDS 5¼l 3rd to Book Of Gold at Newbury (2m 100yd, good to firm); previously easily beat Rowhedge 15l at Cheltenham (2m, firm).
PRIME DISPLAY beat Travelling Tryst 6l at Leicester (2m, soft). BLAZING TOUCH off course since 12½l 5th to Michelozzo in Group I St Leger at Ayr (1m 6f 127yd, soft) in September 1989.
HAWWAM, fair handicapper on level, 11l 3rd to Live Action at Doncaster (1m 2f 50yd, soft) in October.
DRAMATIC EVENT 4l 2nd to Hymn Of Harlech at Wincanton (2m, firm). KATIE SCARLETT beat Secret Summit a head (pair clear) in Plumpton (2m, good to soft) handicap. KTOLO 30l 2nd to Sweet N'Twenty at Wincanton (2m, good).
ACCESS SUN beat Porto Heli 2½l at Wolverhampton (2m,); previously 30l 2nd to prolific Hopscotch at Cheltenham (2m, good to firm). BEHIND THE CLOCK 17l 5th to Silken Fan at Fontwell (2m 2f, good).
Selection: NEW DUDS

3.5 PETER ROSS NOVICES CHASE (£8,928: 3m) (12 runners)

501	1-4F211	MAYORAN 12 (D,F,G,S) (Lord Clinton) D Barons 7-11-11	H Davies	90
502	123R3	SENATOR OF ROME 15 (D,F) (H McCall) G Balding 8-11-11	Mr S Mullins	90
503	3P-U51P	CORUSCATE 15 (D,F,G) (H Joel) J Gifford 9-11-8	D Murphy	85
504	F60-111	MARKET FORCES 31 (D,G,S) (Mrs R Baker) N Gaselee 8-11-8	M Perrett	76
505	P-60432	BULLET TRAIN 17 (S) (Mrs S Smith) Mrs S Smith 8-11-4	R Strange	93
506	0/005-4F	GIVUS A BUCK 14 (S) (K Costello) D Elsworth 8-11-4	M Richards	—
507	F11P-52	LATENT TALENT 23 (G,S) (Mrs C Heath) S Sherwood 7-11-4	J Osborne	85
508	460-14	LOCAL WHISPER 15 (F) (Mrs C Harrington) D Elsworth 7-11-4	B Powell	87
509	052	SHARP OPINION 7 (P Piller) W A Stephenson 8-11-4	C Grant	83
510	3F/F0P4-	TERRY JO 324 (Miss J Moorey) R Hoad 7-11-4	M Hoad (5)	74
511	F25023	TRYUMPHANT LAD 15 (M Deasley) T Jones 7-11-4	T Grantham	86
512	22-1222	WHATS THE CRACK 15 (D,G,BF) (J Wright) Miss H Knight 8-11-4	B Dowling	● 99

BETTING: 11-4 Whats The Crack, 3-1 Latent Talent, 5-1 Mayoran, 11-2 Market Forces, 10-1 Senator Of Rome, 12-1 Coruscate, Local Whisper, 14-1 Givus A Buck, 16-1 others.

1990: ESPY 7-11-4 P Scudamore (5-1) C Brooks 10 ran

FORM FOCUS MAYORAN completed double when beating Duntree 7l at Cheltenham (3m 1f, good to soft). CORUSCATE beat Chancery Buck 2½l at Sandown (3m 118yd, good to firm) on penultimate start.
MARKET FORCES made all to beat Trumpet Player 12l at Haydock (3m, good to soft); previously beat Smooth Escort 1l at Leicester (3m, good). BULLET TRAIN 5l 2nd to Manhattan Chase at Wetherby (3m 100yd) with SHARP OPINION (same terms) 40l 5th.
LATENT TALENT ¾l 2nd to Cardinal Ralph at Towcester (2m 5f 110yd, good). LOCAL WHISPER beat Indian Minor 30l at Taunton (2m 110yd, good to firm) on penultimate start. WHATS THE CRACK 1½l 2nd to Rustle at Newbury (3m, good) with SENATOR ROME (7lb worse off) 4l 3rd, LOCAL WHISPER (same terms) 10l 4th and CORUSCATE (4lb worse off) pulled up 3 out.
Selection: WHATS THE CRACK

3.40 TEAL AND GREEN HANDICAP HURDLE (£4,854: 2m) (17 runners)

601	61-5	LOREN'S COURAGE 11 (B,CD,G) (R Talano) G Harwood 6-12-0	M Perrett	80
602	3302-0P	WINDBOUND LASS 16 (D,F,G,S) (R Severy) R Holder 8-11-11	E Byrne	93
603	1/P0-221	AL ASOOF 15 (D,F,G) (P Redding) P Hedger 6-11-11	M Richards	89
604	1521/6-1	STATE JESTER 10 (D,F,G,S) (E Barber) C W C Elsey 8-11-11	J J Quinn	94
605	411-416	VILLA RECOS 21 (C,D,F,G,S) (Mrs E Hitchins) Mrs J Pitman 6-11-9	M Bowlby	86
606	005-133	LIADETT 17 (D,F,G,S) (F Farrant) M Pipe 6-11-9	J Lower	94
607	0062U-F	OUT OF RANGE 25 (CD,G,S) (R Bastian) D Elsworth 8-11-7	A McCabe (7)	89
608	F10-134	SPRING HAY 14 (D,G,S) (A Saeed) D Nicholson 5-11-6	R Dunwoody	85
609	115111	ELDER PRINCE 11 (D,F,S) (W Pratt) M H Easterby 5-11-1	L Wyer	88
610	14-1112	OLD VIRGINIA 17 (D,F,G) (Gammoss Ltd) R Akehurst 5-10-13	L Harvey	95
611	22-1531	OLVESTON 17 (D,F,G,S) (C Lewis) D Barons 7-10-10	R Greene (5)	● 98
612	10-440	STONE FLAKE 17 (D,S) (R Tooth) P Kelleway 5-10-7	D Murphy	91
613	P1P/P2-	HYPNOTIC 308 (CD,G,S) (Mrs F Walwyn) Mrs F Walwyn 11-10-6	K Mooney	85
614	514-310	KETTI 17 (D,F,G,S) (S Houghton) D Grissell 6-10-6	H Davies	95
615	21220/	GILT BRONZE 1031 (D,S) (M Banks) M Banks 7-10-6	G McCourt	—
616	045400-	DIRECTLY 281 (D,G,S) (Miss B Swire) G Balding 8-10-4	J Frost	94
617	15/PP/	HAVE FAITH 1149 (D,S) (N Goymer) Miss B Sanders 10-10-0	R Goldstein	—

Long handicap: Have Faith 9-2.

BETTING: 11-2 Elder Prince, 6-1 Villa Recos, 7-1 Old Virginia, 15-2 Al Asoof, 8-1 State Jester, Liadett, 10-1 Loren's Courage, 12-1 Spring Hay, Olveston, 14-1 Ketti, Out Of Range, 16-1 others.

1990: AMBASSADOR 7-11-2 P Scudamore (14-1) M Pipe 21 ran

FORM FOCUS LOREN'S COURAGE beat Stratford Ponds 2l over course and distance (good) on penultimate start. AL ASOOF beat Champagne Lad 2½l at Fontwell (2m 2f, good).
STATE JESTER beat Precious Boy 2½l in a 5-runner limited handicap at Ayr (2m, heavy) on reappearance. VILLA RECOS beat Re-Release 5l in a 15-runner amateurs race here (2m 4f, good to firm) on penultimate start. ELDER PRINCE gained sixth success when beating Voyage Sans Retour a head at Cheltenham (2m, good to soft). OLD VIRGINIA beat AL ASOOF (1lb better off) 1½l at Fontwell (2m 2f, good) on penultimate start; latest 4l 2nd to Wonder Man at Kempton (2m, good to soft) with LIADETT (5lb better off) 10l 3rd, KETTI (6lb better off) tailed off 7th and STONE FLAKE (7lb better off) 8th. KETTI beat Wishlon 12l at Lingfield (2m, good) on penultimate start with STONE FLAKE (12lb better off) 4¾l 4th. OLVESTON beat Star Season 15l at Newton Abbot (2m 150yd, soft).
Selection: OLD VIRGINIA

Course specialists

TRAINERS	Winners	Runners	Per cent	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	Per cent
N Twiston-Davies	4	11	36.4	L Harvey	5	18	27.8
M H Easterby	8	32	25.0	R Arnott	3	11	27.3
M Pipe	18	75	24.0	M Perrett	11	43	25.6
C Brooks	6	26	23.1	K Mooney	12	56	21.4
D Elsworth	18	83	21.7	J Osborne	7	37	18.9
R Akehurst	6	29	20.7	B de Haan	5	38	13.2

(Not including yesterday's results)

NEWCASTLE

Selections

By Mandarin
12.45 Centenary Star.
1.15 Bonnie Artist.
1.45 Reve De Valse.
2.15 Meritmoore.
2.45 Tactico.
3.15 Moment Of Truth.
3.45 Area Code.

By Thunderer
12.45 Centenary Star.
1.15 High Edge Grey.
1.45 Reve De Valse.
2.15 Meritmoore.
2.45 Tactico.
3.15 Maudlins Cross.
3.45 Area Code.

Guide to our in-line racecard

1 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 .... B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

Going: good to soft

12.45 TEAL NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,872: 2m 4f) (12 runners)

1	5/001	CASSIS TRAVELLER 38 (F) (R Lamb) R Lamb 7-11-10	K Jones	89
2	0/003-21	CENTENARY STAR 16 (D,S) (C Buckley) Mrs G Reveley 6-11-9	Mr M Buckley (7)	90
3	0/0-22	STAGSHAW BELLE 23 (Mrs J Straker) Mrs S Bradburne 7-11-5	P Niven	93
4	24616	HOUXTY LAD 10 (C,G) (W Aitchison) J Charlton 5-11-1	C Dennis	90
5	130004	LIGHT DANCER 12 (F) (R Owen) L Codd 5-10-8	S Turner	83
6	031534	GIPSY RAMBLER 16 (S) (Mrs M Underwood) N Chamberlain 6-10-5	G Harker	89
7	00-3240	LUPY MINSTREL 32 (R Anderson Green) C Parker 6-10-4	B Storey	● 99
8	603600	ROSEHIP 22 (Mrs J Porter) W A Stephenson 8-10-4	Mr K Johnson	92
9	0/0C00-0	SILLY JUDGE 9 (R Kirkland) J Oliver 8-10-0	G Thomson (7)	—
10	50-466	ABERCROMBY CHIEF 9 (Abercromby Corporation) J Oliver 6-10-0	T Reed	97
11	0/0-565F	ROWAN LEAF 40 (R McDonald) R McDonald 8-10-0	L O'Hara (3)	58
12	006	NO FRILLS 80 (F Watson) W Storey 6-10-0	K Doolan	86

BETTING: 11-4 Centenary Star, 4-1 Cassis Traveller, 5-1 Light Dancer, 6-1 Stagshaw Belle, 8-1 Rowan Leaf, Lupy Minstrel, 10-1 Houxty Lad, 14-1 others.

1990: LYPHEORIC 5-11-3 P Niven (9-2) Mrs J Ramsden 10 ran

1.15 PINTAIL HANDICAP CHASE (£2,820: 3m 6f) (6 runners)

1	41100-P	JELUPE 7 (C,F,G,S) (R Sandys-Clarke) R Sandys-Clarke 9-11-10	Mr R Sandys-Clarke	89
2	3-15133	THE LANGHOLM DYER 11 (F,G,S) G Richards 12-11-7	L O'Hara (3)	96
3	325242	HIGH EDGE GREY 17 (F,G,S) (J Stone) J Oliver 10-10-7	T Reed	● 99
4	1F4P-62	GARBALLY PARK 15 (B,S) (Mrs M Graham) T Tate 8-10-3	P Niven	93
5	P64431	BONNIE ARTIST 11 (C,F,G,S) (P Piller) W A Stephenson 7-10-0	Mr K Johnson	98
6	3-54134	LINGHAM BRIDE 11 (F,G,S) (J Swiers) J Swiers 9-10-0	A Orkney	88

BETTING: 2-1 Bonnie Artist, 3-1 The Langholm Dyer, 7-2 High Edge Grey 4-1 Garbally Park, 8-1 Lingham Bride, 14-1 Jelupe.

1990: SICILIAN ANSWER 13-9-13 L O'Hara (6-1) G Richards 4 ran

1.45 SHOVELER NOVICES HURDLE (£1,918: 2m) (17 runners)

1	4022-5	BIRSTWITH 17 (D Aykroyd) W Elsey 6-11-5	R Marley	85
2	00-	CORMAC'S 197F (A Batey) A Batey 5-11-5	J O'Gorman (3)	—
3	03	FAR GLOW 15 (Mrs A Taylor) A Stringer 5-11-5	P Niven	60
4	5	GINGER PINK 63 (A Walton) J Johnson 5-11-5	A Orkney	—
5	R-	GOSPEL ROCK 365 (Lord Zetland) P Calver 7-11-5	T Reed	—
6	P	MALIPIERO 9 (A Hay) P Monteith 7-11-5	D Nolan	—
7	00	MUIRFIELD 66 (The Scottish Steeplechasing Partnership) J Oliver 5-11-5	G Thomson (7)	—
8		SILK DEGREES 469F (G Keary) W Storey 5-11-5	—	—
9	0/0024/	SOTHEBY SOUND 569 (Mrs G Morrissey) W Barker 7-11-5	G Harker	—
10	PP0	STRONG SILVER 52 (Mrs A Johnson) R Johnson 6-11-5	Mr P Johnson	—
11		SUPERMARINE 854F (M Graham) R Lamb 5-11-5	K Jones	—
12		HAZEL LEAF (R McDonald) R McDonald 5-11-0	L O'Hara (3)	—
13	30020	QUE BELLA 21 (Northumbria Leisure Ltd) J Charlton 5-11-0	C Dennis	75
14	0	YOKATOLA RUN 40 (B Mactaggart) B Mactaggart 6-11-0	B Storey	—
15	042211	REVE DE VALSE 16 (D,G,S) (K Higson) Denys Smith 4-10-10	G Moore	● 99
16		EMERITUS 220F (C Hunter Ltd) W Bentley 4-10-7	A J Quinn	—
17	P0	WAKE UP 30 (Mrs J Ward) R O'Leary 4-10-7	P Harley	—

BETTING: 4-5 Reve De Valse, 4-1 Birstwith, 8-1 Far Glow, Sotheby Sound, 10-1 Ginger Pink, Silk Degrees, 12-1 Muirfield, 14-1 others.

1990: LEIGH BOY 4-10-3 J Callaghan (5-4 fav) G Moore 11 ran

2.15 DIPPER NOVICES CHASE (Grade II: £9,854: 2m 4f) (5 runners)

1	11F113	CHOICE CHALLANGE 14 (D,F,G) (D Sills) M Hammond 8-11-5	P Niven	95
2	0P/4-U04	INTARSIA 17 (J Hinchliffe) J Oliver 7-11-5	T Reed	80
3	5-53121	MERITMOORE 15 (D,G,S) (G Borek) G Moore 8-11-5	J Callaghan	98
4	0/32-	WATERSIGN 350 (North East Racing Club Ltd) G Coatsworth 10-11-5	G Harker	86
5	2-F11UF	ROSITARY 14 (D,F,S) (P Winkworth) S Mellor 8-11-0	Mr M Armytage	● 99

BETTING: 11-8 Meritmoore, 2-1 Choice Challange, 3-1 Rositary, 20-1 Watersign, 33-1 Intarsia.

1990: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

2.45 BITTERN HANDICAP CHASE (£3,124: £3,124: 2m 4f) (3 runners)

1	1422/20	JIM THORPE 42 (CD,F,G,S) (MC Inns Limited) G Richards 10-12-0	N Doughty	90
2	1/6FP-P	MIGHTY MARK 22 (CD,G,S) (Mrs F Walton) F Walton 12-11-3	B Storey	—
3	121122	TACTICO 10 (B,D,F,G,S) (I Dalgleish) J O'Neill 9-11-0	P Niven	● 99

BETTING: 2-5 Tactico, 2-1 Jim Thorpe, 14-1 Mighty Mark.

1990: LACIDAR 10-10-0 T Reed (7-2) J Johnson 5 ran

3.15 HERON NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£2,339: £2,339: 2m) (6 runners)

1	611111	MOMENT OF TRUTH 14 (CD,F,G,S) (D Petrie) P Monteith 7-12-0	L O'Hara (3)	98
2	60/00-12	EDBERG 14 (D,G,S) (R Darby) J Johnson 7-10-12	A Orkney	● 99
3	030-242	MACARTHUR 12 (F,G) (Mrs A Henson) M W Easterby 6-10-4	R Marley	93
4	55F043	FIGHTING FINISH 9 (Mrs H Scotto) W A Stephenson 7-10-1	B Storey	89
5	053-221	MAUDLINS CROSS 33 (D,G) (D Bell) Mrs G Reveley 6-10-0	P Niven	96
6	16/4-P64	WAR DANCER 15 (S) (E Williams) J O'Neill 9-10-0	A Dobbin (7)	83

BETTING: 7-4 Moment Of Truth, 5-2 Edberg, 3-1 Maudlins Cross, 11-2 Fighting Finish, 8-1 Macarthur, 14-1 War Dancer.

1990: BLAZING WALKER 6-12-7 C Grant (2-1 fav) W Stephenson 8 ran

3.45 MALLARD HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,075: 2m 4f) (7 runners)

1	114F12	BREAK THE CHAIN 16 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs A Brown) W A Stephenson 6-11-10	J Supple (7)	92
2	30-0010	SAGAMAN 22 (C,G) (R Buck) L Codd 5-11-5	F Murtagh (7)	98
3	2/13	AREA CODE 11 (D,G) (Mrs I Rylas) J Johnson 7-11-4	A Orkney	90
4	6-46341	DAWN COYOTE 9 (S) (R Anderson) Mrs S Bradburne 8-10-11	P Niven	94
5	43140/0-	PHOTINIA 441 (D,F,G) (W Perratt) T Fairhurst 6-10-3	F Perratt (7)	—
6	2524-33	HIGHFIELD PRINCE 73 (F) (John Watson Windows Ltd) R O'Leary 6-10-1	P Harley	● 99
7	/0/4-PP	LOG CABIN 8 (S) (R Hamett) B Ellison 10-10-0	B McGill (5)	—

BETTING: 2-1 Break The Chain, 5-2 Area Code, 4-1 Dawn Coyote, 6-1 Sagaman, 10-1 Highfield Prince, 20-1 Photinia, 33-1 Log Cabin.

1990: SHILGROVE PLACE 8-11-7 Mr N Wilson (16-1) Mrs S Bramall 9 ran

Course specialists

TRAINERS	Winners	Runners	Per cent	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	Per cent
G Moore	12	64	18.8	Mr K Johnson	5	21	23.8
W A Stephenson	63	341	18.5	T Reed	17	116	14.7
W Storey	8	44	18.2	L O'Hara	3	21	14.3
Mrs S Bradburne	3	17	17.6	J Callaghan	5	38	13.2
J Johnson	9	53	17.0	B Storey	19	187	10.2
	4	35	11.4				

(Only qualifiers)

● Peter Scudamore sees his specialist on Tuesday and hopes to find out when he will be able to return to race-riding. The champion jockey, out of action since breaking a leg in November, said: "I feel great, but I've no idea when I'll be back."

● Graham McCourt, kicked in the ribs in a fall at Wincanton on Thursday, decided not to ride yesterday but returns to partner Katabatic in the Victor Chandler Handicap Chase at Ascot today.

Osborne and Young Snugfit put their popularity at risk

By PAUL WHEELER

Osborne: aiming to lower Desert Orchid colours again

JAMIE Osborne rides Young Snugfit in the Victor Chandler Handicap Chase at Ascot today knowing that, if he wins, he will not be popular in some quarters. He faces the nation's darling, Desert Orchid, who in the last few seasons has risen from popular racehorse, through superstar to equine deity, with his own fan club.

Osborne found out what it was like to vanquish a national institution when he and Young Snugfit beat Desert Orchid in the Tingle Creek Chase at Sandown last month.

He did not get quite the reception he expected. He was not so much resentful as bemused. "When I watched the video tape that night, they were showing Desert Orchid coming home, Desert Orchid walking in, Desert Orchid having his saddle taken off. Oh, and by the way Young Snugfit has won the race."

But he will have no compunction about lowering the dashing grey's colours again. "Desert Orchid is great for racing, and there was no-one shouting louder than me when he won the King George.

"But it is a 45-grand added race, and I want out go out there and win. When it all boils down to it, I've got to go out and make a living and I couldn't care less what happens to Desert Orchid, so long as he comes back in one piece."

The Tingle Creek was Osborne's second big-race success on consecutive Saturdays, after winning the Hennessy Gold Cup on Arctic Call. But more remarkably it was only a month after he had returned to the saddle since breaking his back in April, following a fall from Five Lamps at Worcester.

Recalling that fateful ride, he said: "I remember most of the day. I'd been riding at two meetings, and it was my third fall of the day. I was feeling a little bit rough after the second fall, and was in two minds about whether to take the ride. But I thought that it was nearly the end of the season, so why not?

"He buried me, and the next thing I remember was in Worcester hospital. I was on my back for three months, and days like the Hennessy seemed an awful long way away."

Osborne gives an air of supreme confidence, but even he had his moments of doubt about his chosen profession. "To be perfectly honest, for the first 24 hours I thought 'I just don't want to do this anymore. It's Saturday night, and what am I doing laid up in Worcester with a broken back?'

"When I had my first ride back again at Worcester, I thought that if I didn't still enjoy it, I would pack up. But when I jumped the first fence I knew why I couldn't give it up."

He talks about his other injuries incurred in the line of duty with the nonchalance that most of us use to describe a visit to the dentist. "Oh, not too bad, six or seven collar-bones, an ankle, a couple of bouts of concussion — nothing very serious."

Osborne has enjoyed a meteoric rise through the jockeys' ranks since riding in point-to-points while still at school. He first came to prominence when riding for Monica Dickinson and Nicky Henderson before taking the job as first jockey to Oliver Sherwood when his brother, Simon, retired.

His first season there yielded 53 winners, which he is confident he can surpass. But there have been those who thought he was too young for the job, and have been waiting for him to fail.

"That sort of talk makes me more determined to prove them wrong," he said. "I just keep doing the job, and as long as the guv'nor and the owners are happy, that's all I've got to worry about."

Another victory today would make everybody happy — except the Desert Orchid fan club.

WARWICK

Selections

By Mandarin
12.45 Torwada. 1.15 Knight's Spur. 1.45 Party Politics. 2.15 Stupid Cupid. 2.45 Romany King. 3.15 Wide Boy. 3.45 Monday Club.

By Thunderer
12.45 Torwada. 1.15 Well And Truly. 1.45 Party Politics. 2.15 Peanuts Pet. 2.45 Auntie Dot. 3.15 Wide Boy. 3.45 Monday Club.

By Michael Seely
1.45 Torwada. 3.45 Monday Club.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating
1.45 TORWADA.

Going: soft

12.45 SHERBOURNE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,880: 2m) (12 runners)

1	41-P	TILT TECH FLYER 21 (D,BF,S) R Akehurst 6-11-13	J Leech
2	62-5	NONE TOO DEAR 12 (V,D,G) G Balding 9-11-11	S Foster (5)
3	/560	GAELIC SILVER 42 (D,G) J McConnochie 8-11-3	G Upton
4	55-3	RUN OF WELD 59 (D,G) M Pipe 8-10-12	M Foster
5	1/11	TORWADA 4 (D,S) B Curley 8-10-11 (8ex)	J Twomey (5)
6	100-	DUDLEY 266 (D,S) Mrs F Walwyn 8-10-9	P Verling
7	4-04	FLUTTER MONEY 17 (D,G,S) Miss G Dollar 7-10-6	R Boucher
8	501-	WESTERN DIVIDE 273 (D,F) J Perrett 6-10-2	D Skyrme
9	P2-9	FEELING BETTER 22 F Jordan 5-10-2	J Lodder
10	5-P0	DRESS UP 11 N Ayliffe 7-10-0	D Bridgwater (5)
11	61/P	BELLEKINO 16 (D,F,G,S) G Ham 10-10-0	M A Fitzgerald (5)
12	6-00	CORBALLY BESS 25 (D,S) Miss L Bower 11-10-0	A Tory

1-2 Torwada, 5-1 Run Of Weld, 7-1 Tilt Tech Flyer, 8-1 Gaelic Silver, 12-1 None Too Dear, 14-1 Dudley, 16-1 others.

1.15 LEASOWES NOVICES HURDLE (£1,463: 2m) (10)

1	04	BEAUJOLAIS NOUVEAU 11 (V) M Channon 10-10	—
2	32	KNIGHT'S SPUR 11 J Webber 10-10	M Lynch
3	0	MODERN JAZZ 25 C C Elsey 10-10	R Boucher (7)
4	03	MONSIEUR MORUE 22 R Holder 10-10	N Mann (3)
5	0U4	MYLORDMAYOR 12 W Price 10-10	N Coleman
6	PP	PADDY'S LINE 11 D C Tucker 10-10	J Neaves (7)
7	F00	RED RING 38 J Webber 10-10	W Marston (7)
8		REGENT'S INLET 131F T Caldwell 10-10	Peter Caldwell
9		GALATEA PEARL 53F B McMahon 10-5	T Wall
10	4	WELL AND TRULY 21 C C Elsey 10-5	R Guest

2-1 Knight's Spur, 4-1 Well And Truly, 5-1 Beaujolais Nouveau, 13-2 Monsieur Morue, 10-1 Red Ring, 12-1 others.

1.45 WARWICK PREMIER CHASE (£5,222: 3m 1f) (3)

1	-121	PARTY POLITICS 14 (CD,F,G,S) N Gaselee 7-11-10	A Adams
2	4223	BIT OF A CLOWN 14 (BF) Mrs I McKie 8-11-3	J Duggan
3	F4FP	SERIOZHA 23 R Curtis 8-11-3	D Morris

1-10 Party Politics, 8-1 Bit of A Clown, 16-1 Seriozha.

Course specialists

TRAINERS: R Akehurst, 15 winners from 41 runners, 36.6%; J Gifford, 7 from 23, 30.4%; G Gracey, 4 from 16, 25.0%; N Gaselee, 12 from 50, 24.0%; K Bailey, 9 from 40, 22.5%; M Pipe, 27 from 123, 22.0%.

JOCKEYS: N Mann, 5 winners from 14 rides, 35.7%; G Upton, 5 from 19, 26.3%; A Adams, 5 from 20, 25.0%; W Irvine, 5 from 33, 15.2%; R Beggan, 5 from 34, 14.7%; S Smith Eccles, 12 from 82, 14.6%.

2.15 CORAL GOLDEN HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier: £4,250: 2m 5f) (30)

1	/5-1	JIMBALOU 16 (F,G,S) R Brazington 8-11-12	R Beggan
2	4-0P	TEL-ECHO 11 (S) G Balding 7-11-12	S Foster (7)
3	1006	PEANUTS PET 7 (F,G,S) B McMahon 6-11-11	T Wall
4	1111	CATCH THE CROSS 16 (V,D,F,G,S) M Pipe 5-11-9	M Foster (7)
5	500-	ROGERS PRINCESS 258F (CD,F,G,S) M Tate 9-11-4	S Keightley
6	5220	STAGE PLAYER 42 (F) R Simpson 5-11-2	—
7	/6-2	MORE FOOL YOU 24 (CD,S) P Hobbs 9-11-2	—
8	5-22	GALLEY BAY 95 (G) B Millman 5-11-2	N Coleman
9	12F-	ENBORNE LAD 381 (G,S) G Enright 7-10-12	R Moore (7)
10	2-21	WINNIE THE WITCH 14 (C,S) K Bridgwater 7-10-10	D Bridgwater (7)
11	6-11	STUPID CUPID 58 (F,G) J Gifford 7-10-9	E Murphy
12	-513	NICK THE DREAMER 17 (D,F,S) W Turner 6-10-9	Mr B Clifford (7)
13	F1-4	MERANO 16 (S) M W Easterby 8-10-9	—
14	034-	PACTOLUS 273F (S) S Christian 8-10-7	A Mulholland
15	-022	RU VALENTINO 28 (F) J Edwards 7-10-6	—
16	3-F4	OBELISKI 9 (G) M Tompkins 5-10-6	R Dennis
17	130-	FATHER TIME 60F (S) M Tompkins 7-10-5	R Guest
18	-000	WINTER HAVEN 17 (B,D,G) J Baker 8-10-4	S Burrough (5)
19	1/00	GREAT SALING 24 (G,S) F Jordan 6-10-3	J Lodder (3)
20	1-03	ROYAL GOSSIP 15 (G,S) Mrs I McKie 9-10-2	D Skyrme (3)
21	42-0	GUNNER MAC 7 (B,G,S) N Bycroft 8-10-1	S McNeill
22	-4F2	CIMA 11 (D,S) J Old 13-10-0	P Davies (7)
23	32-6	ARISTOS 12 (D,S) J Old 7-10-0	C Llewellyn
24	UU3P	DANDY MINSTREL 16 (F,G,S) E Wheeler 7-10-0	W Irvine
25	105/	MADFA 621 (S) R Akehurst 6-10-0	J Leech (3)
26	F01-	ROYAL CHARGE 322 (C,F,G,S) D Wellicome 10-10-0	—
27	-223	TARKOVSKY 24 (S) R Lee 6-10-0	W McFarland
28	0P-2	MARQUEE CAFE 11 (F,S) Miss G Dollar 7-10-0	R Boucher (7)
29	0612	BOLSHOI BOY 16 (BF,F) Mrs S Oliver 7-10-0	R Hyett
30	5131	CNOC AN OIR 42 (G) C Broad 7-10-0	P McDermott

6-1 Catch The Cross, 8-1 Jimbalou, Stupid Cupid, More Fool You, 10-1 Winnie The Witch, 12-1 Merano, 14-1 others.

2.45 EDWARD COURAGE CUP HANDICAP CHASE (£4,269: 2m 4f) (6)

1	2123	AUNTIE DOT 14 (CD,BF,F,G,S) J Webber 10-11-10	M Lynch
2	2-35	FOYLE FISHERMAN 16 (D,G,S) J Gifford 12-11-7	E Murphy
3	4F-1	CELTIC FLAME 59 (D,F,G,S) P Harris 10-10-7	D Skyrme (3)
4	3311	ROMANY KING 14 (CD,G,S) G Balding 7-10-5	R Guest
5	FF31	GOOD TONIC 17 (D,F,G,S) T Etherington 8-10-5	—
6	30-U	BASILEA 21 (D,S) T Forster 8-10-2	C Llewellyn

9-4 Romany King, 100-30 Good Tonic, 7-2 Auntie Dot, 9-2 Foyle Fisherman, 5-1 Celtic Flame, 16-1 Basilea.

3.15 BURTON HILL HANDICAP CHASE (£3,026: 2m) (4)

1	/311	WIDE BOY 15 (D,F,S) P Bailey 9-12-0	S Smith Eccles
2	P-05	SHOTINGO 21 (B,G) W Sheedy 11-10-9	R Guest
3	3-04	GLEN RIDGE 16 (B,S) P Hobbs 10-10-6	S Earle
4	6/30	KINGS FOUNTAIN 31 K Bailey 8-10-0	I Lawrence

11-10 Wide Boy, 100-30 Shotingo, 4-1 Kings Fountain, 5-1 Glen Ridge.

3.45 HAMPTON HILL NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,822: 2m) (11)

1	5121	MONDAY CLUB 17 (D,G) M Pipe 7-11-10	M Foster (7)
2	1605	PANT LLIN 15 (B,D,F) F Jordan 5-11-1	J Lodder (3)
3	400	ATHENE NOCTUA 14 B McMahon 6-10-11	T Wall
4	-P42	GOOD FOR THE ROSES 21 M McCormack 5-10-11	C Cox
5	5-20	FRAMPTON HOUSE 17 M Charles 9-10-8	C Cox
6	F-00	PEAK DISTRICT 12 K Bridgwater 5-10-5	D Bridgwater (7)
7	6-01	BENJAMIN LANCASTER 17 (D,S) T Hallett 7-10-2	A Webb
8	0530	AIOLI 12 R Brazington 5-10-0	R Beggan
9	0/00	ONE TO NOTE 14 M Muggeridge 7-10-0	W Irvine
10	P35P	PRIME WARDEN 57 R Holder 5-10-0	N Mann (3)
11	0-PP	LAKESIDE LASS 21 G Gracey 5-10-0	G Upton (3)

11-10 Monday Club, 5-1 Athene Noctua, 6-1 Pant Llin, 7-1 Good For The Roses, 10-1 others.

MARKET RASEN

Selections

By Mandarin
1.0 Black Sapphire. 1.30 Famous Lad. 2.0 Bird Of Spirit. 2.30 Ibn Majed. 3.0 Leven Baby. 3.30 Granny's Bay. 4.0 Bifocal.

By Thunderer
1.0 Border's Legacy. 1.30 O'Reilly. 2.0 Drowsy. 2.30 Fingest. 3.0 Underway. 3.30 Paco's Boy. 4.0 Dakin Brook.

Going: good to soft (soft patches)

1.0 LEVY BOARD NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,126: 2m 6f) (16 runners)

1		SIR TYBURN B Crawford 5-12-0	W Dwan (7)
2	0321	NESSFIELD 22 (S) K Morgan 5-11-13	A S Smith (7)
3	-645	GENEROUS SCOT 17 A James 7-11-12	E Tierney (7)
4	33-3	BORDER'S LEGACY 10 J S Wilson 6-11-4	R Fahey
5	06-3	EJAY HAITCH 12 R Muddle 5-11-3	P Williams (7)
6	402	BLACK SAPPHIRE 12 M Tompkins 4-10-11	S Smith Eccles
7	-060	CATCHAPENNY 17 M Wilkinson 8-10-9	J Short
8	420-	BARON TWO SHOES 225 P Blockley 5-10-8	C Kellett
9	000-	MIDLAND LAD 340 J Eyre 6-10-7	A Nixon (7)
10	/35	PLENARY 9 J Wharton 8-10-6	S J O'Neill
11	0-03	TURN UP THE WICK 38 R Lee 8-10-6	W McFarland
12	-PP0	HUTNER 11 M Dods 6-10-4	A Merrigan
13	P-PP	DRY GIN 11 (F,S) M Chapman 6-10-1	—
14	-664	GUERNSEY GIRL 42 (B) Jimmy Fitzgerald 6-10-0	D Byrne
15	4-00	PENNY LOVER 11 P Felgate 7-10-0	D Gallagher
16	3-P0	BILL AND COUP 11 K Morgan 6-10-0	A Webb

6-4 Nessfield, 6-1 Border's Legacy, Guernsey Girl, 13-2 Plenary, 9-1 Generous Scot, 10-1 Midland Lad, 20-1 others.

1.30 GRANTHAM HANDICAP CHASE (£2,997: 2m 1f) (4)

1	P654	MASNOON 11 (F,G,S) J Eyre 8-12-0	C Hawkins
2	612F	FAMOUS LAD 16 (BF,S) R Lee 8-11-1	J Short
3	45F1	O'REILLY 8 (S) S Mellor 8-10-5	Mr D Gray
4	2-P5	WINTER MEASURE 53 (F,G,S) Mrs Gill E Jones 11-10-2	C Smith

7-4 Famous Lad, 15-8 O'Reilly, 11-4 Masnoon, 8-1 Winter Measure.

2.0 SLEAFORD HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,441: 3m) (14)

1	0542	DROWSY 9 (B,S) O Sherwood 8-11-12	A S Smith (7)
2	0-35	RARE LUCK 15 (F) P Jones 8-11-0	Heather Mussford (7)
3	28-1	TULUM 8 (S) Mrs G Reveley 6-10-12	R Hodge (7)
4	03-0	SHARP KING 11 (C,F,G) K Morgan 8-10-9	—
5	0-03	POLISH 11 (D,S) K Bridgwater 13-10-2	V Slattery (7)
6	-P36	ROSTREAMER 14 (G) C Bravery 8-10-1	D Byrne
7	F-F1	BIRD OF SPIRIT 11 (D,G,S) M Scudamore 11-10-0	R Bellamy (3)
8	-066	FLYING FREEHOLD 18 J Upson 6-10-0	R Supple
9	-6P0	STIKIT'S BROTHER 11 (G,S) Miss E Sneyd 13-10-0	D Gallagher
10	6-P4	NO CREDIBILITY 17 (C,G) B Richmond 9-10-0	Nicola Parker (7)
11	4540	GRACE MOORE 65 (F) K Bishop 7-10-0	—
12	/P	TANDERAGEE 11 (S) R Lee 10-10-0	W McFarland
13	3F40	BICKERSTAFFE 11 (G,S) R Callow 10-10-0	E Tierney (7)
14	001-	BELPENEL 259 (G) C Smith 5-10-0	C Smith

7-2 Drowsy, Bird Of Spirit, 9-2 Polish, 6-1 Tulum, 8-1 Rare Luck, 10-1 Sharp King, 12-1 Rostreamer, 14-1 others.

2.30 STAMFORD HANDICAP CHASE (£3,687: 2m 6f) (6)

1	2-2P	IBN MAJED 7 (C,D,F,G,S) Jimmy Fitzgerald 9-12-0	D Byrne
2	-11P	FINGEST 16 (V,C,G,S) P Evans 8-11-10	M Brennan
3	4065	JOINT SOVEREIGNTY 10 (F,G,S) J S Wilson 11-11-9	R Fahey
4	F-0P	GRAND VALUE 16 (F,G) D McCain 8-10-5	S J O'Neill
5	52P-	RADICAL REQUEST 325 (G,S) K Burke 8-10-1	R Supple
6	0P/	SEVERN SOLITAIRE 777 Miss G Rees 12-10-0	W Worthington

7-4 Joint Sovereignty, 2-1 Ibn Majed, 3-1 Fingest, 12-1 Grand Value, 16-1 Radical Request, 20-1 Severn Solitaire.

3.0 BOSTON CLAIMING HURDLE (£2,193: 2m 1f) (18)

1	0	CAVALCANTI 17 (B) J Glover 5-11-12	S D Williams
2	P	KOLINSKY 7 M Chapman 5-11-10	—
3	0206	YAMASHITA 21 F Jordan 6-11-10	D Tegg
4	/41-	NAE BOTHER 330 (G) J Wharton 7-11-9	S J O'Neill
5	5-50	BLUE GRIT 39 M Dods 5-11-8	A Merrigan
6	P	ONE DEVONSHIRE 7 M Tompkins 5-11-7	T Kent (7)
7	0	UNDERWAY 31 Jimmy Fitzgerald 5-11-7	D Byrne
8	00	BALLAD DANCER 14 E Alston 6-11-6	M Alston (7)
9	-400	JASMIN PATH 45 (C,G) O Brennan 6-11-5	M Brennan
10	/0/	BARCHAM PRINCE 593F (D,S) T Kersey 9-11-3	Susan Kersey
11	P0P	DAN THE MAN 7 C Smith 5-11-3	Mr M Ranger (7)
12	/06	EMFIVE 12 M W Easterby 6-11-3	R Fahey
13	22-5	ELEANOR CROSS 139 B Richmond 6-11-0	D Gallagher
14	05	BANTON LOCH 42 (V) C Tinkler 4-10-12	R Garritty
15	014F	ISABEAU 17 (CD,G) K Morgan 4-10-10	A S Smith (7)
16	3161	LEVEN BABY 17 (S) Mrs G Reveley 4-10-9	R Hodge (7)
17	683	BLUE BELL RIBBONS 12 (BF) R Marvin 4-10-6	W Worthington
18	50	GOOD SESSION 36 A Potts 4-10-7	T Potts

7-4 Leven Baby, 5-1 Underway, 7-1 Blue Bell Ribbons, Isabeau, 8-1 Yamashita, 10-1 others.

3.30 SPALDING AMATEUR RIDERS NOVICES CHASE (£2,388: 3m) (11)

1	4221	DECENT MAN 17 (S) P Beaumont 8-12-0	Mrs A Farrell (5)
2	P541	PACO'S BOY 10 (D,F,S) J O'Neill 8-12-0	J Durkan (5)
3	4-P4	FICTION WRITER 12 (B) T Bill 7-11-10	R Ford (7)
4	/2-2	GRANNY'S BAY 9 (F,S) D McCain 8-11-10	D McCain Jr
5	4/F	MISTER HAMMY 23 (F) C Bravery 11-11-10	A Hickman (7)
6	-462	MURPHY'S MAN 14 D Nicholson 7-11-10	M Rimell (7)
7	5-63	SPARK OF PEACE 9 (G,S) P Blockley 9-11-10	D Gray
8	-046	STORMY'S MAD 7 J Leigh 7-11-10	D Robinson (7)
9	0444	YOUNG FOOL 28 (V) C Smith 7-11-10	M Ranger (7)
10	2623	MARCELLINA 15 (G,S) E Alston 9-11-5	K Comerford (7)
11	-P24	LYNKIMGEM 7 M Chapman 5-10-12	S Blackwell (7)

5-2 Granny's Bay, 3-1 Murphy's Man, 4-1 Decent Man, 5-1 Paco's Boy, 10-1 Marcellina, 12-1 Lynkimgem, 16-1 others.

4.0 GRIMSBY NOVICES HURDLE (£1,989: 2m 1f) (14)

1	3123	LONGSHOREMAN 23 (S) N Tinkler 10-13	M Hill
2	0100	PINECONE PETER 38 (D,F) O Brennan 10-13	M Brennan
3	50	BAKHTARAN 30 Mrs A King 10-7	R Supple
4	3	BIFOCAL 16 P Bevan 10-7	D Gallagher
5	4	BOLD STREET BLUES 16 C Smith 10-7	C Smith
6	F	DANNY BLANCHFLOWER 8F M Chapman 10-7	—
7	0	GREAT SERVICE 47 Ronald Thompson 10-7	M Lecas (7)
8		PACIFIC GEM 88F S Sherwood 10-7	A S Smith (7)
9	00	PHOENIX JULE 58 B Crawford 10-7	Mark Jones (7)
10	2P	RINTINTIN 16 J McConnochie 10-7	J Short
11		THORESBY 25F J Norton 10-7	R Fahey
12		CARLTON MOOR 74F W Haigh 10-2	D Byrne
13		CHOIR'S IMAGE 448F J Eyre 10-2	A Nixon (7)
14	4	DAKIN BROOK 17 Mrs G Plowright 10-2	P A Farrell

7-4 Bifocal, 7-2 Pacific Gem, 5-1 Rintintin,

Course specialists

TRAINERS: R Lee, 4 winners from 8 runners, 50.0%; C Tinkler, 4 from 11, 36.4%; N Tinkler, 17 from 64, 26.6%; J J O'Neill, 3 from 12, 25.0%; Jimmy Fitzgerald, 43 from 184, 23.4%; Mrs G Reveley, 12 from 54, 22.2%.

JOCKEYS: S Smith Eccles, 12 winners from 39 rides, 30.8%; D Byrne, 13 from 58, 22.4%; A Webb, 6 from 29, 20.7%; Mrs A Farrell, 3 from 17, 17.6%; R Supple, 4 from 23, 17.4%; M Hill, 6

HOCKEY

Jennings fit for Spalding qualifier

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

IAN Jennings, who retired from the European indoor club championship at Limburg last weekend with a back injury, is reported by **St Albans** to have recovered sufficiently to play for them in the Royal Bank national indoor club championship qualifying round at Spalding tomorrow.

St Albans are not happy about being ordered, at short notice, to play their postponed Poundstretcher National League outdoor match against **East Grinstead** today. Fortunately, Jennings plays outdoors for Old Loughtonians who are not committed today.

East Grinstead will also be at Spalding, playing in pool six, where they will face opposition from **Warrington**, **Cambridge City** and **West Herts**. St Albans, the holders, are in pool five where they will be opposed by **Surbiton**, **Harborne** and **Crostyx**.

The final stages of the competition are to be played at Crystal Palace on January 25. Six other clubs will emerge from pools at Bradford, Swindon and Birmingham to make up the quarter-finalists. Former winners, **Hounslow** and **Slough**, are in pool three at the Oasis Leisure Centre, Swindon.

Floris Bovelander, the famous Dutch short corner specialist, will play for **Buccaneers** in the Twelfth Glenfiddich international indoor tournament at the Kelvin Hall, Glasgow, today and tomorrow.

Among other postponed National League matches to be played today is an interesting one between **Stourport** and **Teddington**, both aspiring to recover lost ground in the first division.

Ipswich's double challenge

THE women's Typhoo National League picks up again today after the Christmas break (Alix Ramsay writes). **Slough** are on top but with **Hightown** just a point behind and **Ipswich** and **Leicester** chasing third and fourth places, the table could open up dramatically.

For Ipswich and Hightown it will be a busy weekend. Not only must they play their usual League fixtures today but they must play each other in a rearranged game tomorrow.

Ipswich's cause has not been helped by having players called away on county, territorial, indoor and international duty over the last few weeks.

The weekend should also provide an interesting tactical challenge. Today, Ipswich take on **Sutton Coldfield**, a squad peppered with international caps; tomorrow, they must try to combat Hightown's strength as a playing unit. Ipswich are confident of coping with the task. At the other end of the table, **Wimbledon** and **Doncaster**, with just a point apiece, are looking like relegation favourites. For Wimbledon the next two games are vital. Playing seventh place **Clifton** this week and fifth place **Chelmsford** next week, the SW19 side are banking on picking up a couple of points.

A Hungarian stuns everyone with silver in a world record 200m breaststroke

Gillingham has goal in sights

From CRAIG LORD
IN PERTH

Etched in determination: Nick Gillingham on his way to a bronze medal in the 200 metres breaststroke last night

A YEAR of physical and emotional stress ended with a bronze medal for Nick Gillingham in the fastest 200 metres breaststroke field in history at the world championships last night.

There was little the European champion could do to respond to the blistering pace set by Mike Barrowman, the American, who clocked 29.86sec for the first 50 metres, turned at halfway in 1min 03.19sec and went on to win the title in a world record of 2min 11.23sec.

But Gillingham's defeat by Norbert Rozsa, the Hungarian who beat Adrian Moorhouse and broke the world record to win the 100 metres title on Monday, took everyone by surprise. Rozsa improved his best time by 2.42sec to place sixth in the morning heats. It could not have been foreseen that he would improve a further 3.05sec for a European record of 2min 12.03sec to take the silver.

Rozsa, who also beat team colleague, Jozsef Szabo, the Olympic champion defending his world title, said he had "trained much harder over the last year than in the previous two years". He could offer no other explanation for a progression rate unmatched at world championships.

Barrowman, who shaved three tenths of a second off his own world record and is coached by the Hungarian, Jozsef Nagy, at Michigan, said he had never heard of Rozsa before this championship and Gillingham, after hearing the Hungarian's remarks said: "There may well be other reasons why he has done well. It's a very great surprise."

Before the race, Rozsa's coach, Tamas Szechy, had predicted his charge would win the 200 metres at the Barcelona Olympics.

Gillingham, of Walsall, who had tonsilitis going into the Commonwealth Games a year ago and finished a disappointing third in both the 100 and 200 metres at Auckland, said: "Its been a mixed physical and emotional year. I was due to have a tonsilectomy, but preparing for this event was tough enough, so the operation was cancelled.

"I'm delighted with the result here," he said. "If I didn't think I could go one and a half seconds faster I would give up now. It's been a year of building on my mistakes. This bronze medal is what I needed to help me mentally. It's one step on the road to Barcelona."

Gillingham will aim to break the world best time in a 25-metre pool at the Leicester grand prix in two weeks' time. Success could earn him £10,000.

Chinese women and German men produced one-two results in the first two races. Qian Hong and Wang Xiaohong took gold and silver honours in the 100 metres butterfly, while Joerg Hoffmann, of eastern Germany, outstretched his western team colleague, Stefan Pfeiffer, in the 400 metres freestyle.

The biggest cheer was reserved for Linley Frame, the Australian who added the 100 metres breaststroke title to her silver medal in the 200 metres, while the United States men's team won the 4x100 metres freestyle relay for the fourth successive time.

In the diving, Gao Min helped China to a clean sweep in the women's medals after adding the three-metre springboard title to her victory in the one1-metre event. However, Gao's efforts , which earned her 539.01 points, disappointed Xu Yiming, the Chinese head coach, of the Chinese diving team, who described the standard of competition as "very poor for a world championship".

Official approval for cash prizes

From CRAIG LORD

SWIMMERS are to receive official prize-money for the first time in this year's World Cup series, although the amount will be modest because of uncertainty about who will run the circuit.

Each of the World Cup's six race categories, covering strokes and, in the case of the freestyle, sprint and distance events, will offer $10,000 (about £5,250) to be shared between the best eight men and women who compete in the finals. The winner is likely to receive $1,000 (about £525).

Don Gambril, of the United States, one of the world's leading coaches over the last 30years, said: "About 50 per cent of our men's team are postgraduates and they need something more to keep them in the sport. When the thing builds up, they can look to support financially between major games.

"If Chris Evert and the like can win a gold medal at the Olympics, why shouldn't our swimmers earn $10,000?" The nations hosting the six preliminary rounds will each put that sum into a general fund to cover the bill.

Reflecting the latest and most significant shift towards professionalism, the Soviet Union, which is to host the fifth leg of the World Cup in Leningrad, has appealed to western companies to buy advertising space around the pool and in the programme.

The Soviet attitude contrasts starkly with that in Britain, where BBC television rules impose the constraint of a maximum of two advertising boards, one at each end of the pool, and only one sponsor.

Any competition with a dual sponsor has to allocate alternate days of advertising rights to each of the sponsoring groups, and lettering cannot exceed 50cms in height.

Vladimir Salnikov, the Olympic champion at 1,500 metres freestyle who, in retirement, is one of the organisers of the Leningrad round, said: "We invite western companies to buy advertising boards and (adverts) in the programme. We guarantee these boards will be in camera shot all round the pool. We also wish to know which nations want to receive our TV signal. This will be free, we think."

During the first two years of the World Cup, Fina, the world governing body, would not give organisers permission to award prize-money. But Fina bureau members have since accepted that a more professional approach to the sport is inevitable if Fina is to retain control.

For the same reason, the governing body will take over control of the World Cup circuit next year and the existing organisers, led by Trevor Tiffany, the Canadian team director, will play a more consultative role.

"Fina has realised that we have to provide money incentives to build up interest in the World Cup circuit," Tiffany said

RESULTS FROM PERTH

Men

Swimming

200 metres breaststroke

FINAL: 1, M Barrowman (US), 2min 11 23sec (world record). 2, N Rozsa (Hun), 2:12.03. 3, N Gillingham (GB), 2:13 12; 4, J Fernandez (Sp), 2:13.42 5, J Szabo (Hun), 2:13.93; 6, S Lopez (Sp), 2:14.24; 7, P Rogers (Aus), 2:15.00; 8, H Fujieda (Japan), 2:15.28.

400 metres freestyle

FINAL: 1, J Hoffmann (Ger), 3min 48 04sec. 2, S Pfeiffer (Ger) 3 48 86 3 A Wojdat (Pol), 3 45 87 4, A Holmertz (Swe), 3.49.72. 5, Y Logvinov (USSR), 3:50.89, 6, Z Szilagyi (Hun), 3:51.55; 7, I Brown (Aus), 3:51.75, 8, D Jorgensen (US), 3:54.29.

4 x 100 metres freestyle relay

FINAL: 1, United States (T Jager, B Lang, D Gjertsen, M Biondi), 3min 17 15sec; 2, Germany (P Sitt, D Richter, S Zesner, B Zikarsky), 3:18.88; 3, Soviet Union (G Pigoda, Y Bashkatov, V Troianovitch, V Tkachenko), 3:18.97; 4, Sweden, 3:20.43; 5, Australia, 3:20.98; 6, Canada, 3:22.42; 7, Netherlands, 3.26.97. France disqualified.

Water polo

SECOND ROUND: Group E: Spain 7, Soviet Union 4; Yugoslavia 9, Italy 6. Group F: Australia 9, Germany 7; United States 9, Hungary 9.

Women

Swimming

100 metres breaststroke

FINAL: 1, L Frame (Aus), 1min 08 81sec; 2, J Doerries (Ger), 1:09.35. 3, Y Volkova (USSR), 1:09.66; 4, M Dalla Valle (It), 1:09.97; 5, K Duggan (Can), 1:10.01; 6, T McFarlane (US), 1:10.78; 7, T Dangalakova (Bul), 1:10.82; 8, S Riley (Aus), 1:11 15. Non-qualifier: 5, L Coombes (GB), 1:11.28.

100 metres butterfly

FINAL: 1, Q Hong (China), 59.68sec; 2, W Xiaohong (China), 59.81. 3, C Plewinski (Fr), 59.88; 4, C Ahmann-Leighton (US), 59.96; equal 5, J Gorman (US) and S O'Neill (Aus), 1:00.54; 7, Y Kando (Japan), 1:01.14; 8, I De Bruijn (Neth), 1:01.64.

800 metres freestyle

FIRST HEAT: 4, K Mellor (GB), 8:57.36.

Diving

Three-metre springboard

FINAL: 1, G Min (China), 539.01pts; 2, I Lasko (USSR), 524 70 3 B Baldus (Ger), 503 73. 4, L Haisong (China), 499 71, 5, D Jongejans (Neth), 492 99; 6, H Barnova (Czl), 487 52, 7, J Farrell-Ovenhouse (US), 481.67; 8, K Bensing (Ger), 455.43; 9, T Cox-Smyth (Zim), 454.23; 10, K Wilson (US), 453.63; 11, M Depiero (Can), 444.51; 12, E Boisvert (Can), 440.61.

Water polo

SECOND ROUND: Group C: Germany 11, Brazil 3; Netherlands 9, United States 6; Canada 8, Hungary 7. Group D: Australia 17, New Zealand 3.

From Las Vegas to Latchmere Leisure Centre

LAURA THOMPSON

The press conference to herald the boxing comeback of Lloyd Honeyghan was held in a Holiday Inn. It sometimes seems that the earthier the sport, the more spruce shall be its settings: for example, the world darts championship comes to us from The Lakeside Country Club, while no doubt polo players quaff dry sherry at The Spit and Sawdust public house, Old Windsor.

Honeyghan entered wearing little shorts and a rather breathtaking haircut that fanned away from his head like candyfloss, but which was an improvement on his old coiffure in that it was, as they say, "a head of hair", as opposed to "half a head of hair".

His bold new appearance was wolfwhistled by a few journalists, which seemed to set the relaxed and slightly irreverent tone of the whole affair.

But everyone knew Honeyghan too well to be restrained with him; and he semed to accept the fact that the journalists were not going to keep a respectful distance or indeed allow him to forget that they had an intimate and seemingly infinite knowledge of his past and private life. There were moral conclusions to be drawn from his story, and Honeyghan was going to hear them.

Yes, it seemed that a script had been tacitly agreed upon for "The Life of Lloyd Honeyghan (from *Las Vegas to the Latchmere Leisure Centre*)", to wit: boxer makes good, buys Rolls-Royce, gets knocked out, gets fat, sells Rolls-Royce and has to start all over again at the bottom, leading a simpler and — who knows? — perhaps a truer life.

The questions that were asked during the press conference stuck to this scenario. They reminded Honeyghan of his glamorous past, of the terrible tragedy of his last defeat and of the uncertainty of his future. They were also rather dramatically phrased: "So, Lloyd, you perhaps realise that you were not very wise doing the things that you did . . .?" "So, Lloyd, whatever the reaction to you is, it can't drive you away again . . .?"

Unfortunately, Honeyghan had not read the script, or, if he had, he did not like it. His own version was far more upbeat. He discussed all the tests upon his cerebral faculties simply and openly and told us that the conclusion had been that "there was normal brains in there".

He discussed his weight problems not as if he were playing Hamlet but with the self-mocking, ruefully confessional air of someone being interviewed for a slimming magazine. He told us how much he had lost on the sale of his house. He swore a bit. He would not stop talking.

Mickey Duff, avuncular but very slightly rigid with concern as to what his boy might come out with next, embarked upon a calming monologue which sieved everything that had just been said through the filtering remark that: "Lloyd says a lot of things that he realises afterwards he didn't mean." Meanwhile, Honeyghan did fake yawns and pulled the hood of his sweatshirt over his head.

But I was glad that Honeyghan seemed cheery because boxing is a terrifying thing. His was the first live fight I had attended and I found something fearful, not so much in the boxing itself, but in the moments before the boxing starts, when the two men enter the ring and nobody knows what might happen to either of them.

There is something almost unbearable about watching someone standing upon the brink of committing, and being subjected to, acts of sanctioned violence. Yet it is entirely enthralling.

I wanted Honeyghan to win, because I thought how awful it would be for him if he did not, and I was shocked by how I found myself longing for him to hit his opponent.

Perhaps this is no different from the desire to see a football go cleanly into a net, the desire of the sports' spectator to see something that is thorough, conclusive and physically perfect?

Of course, other sports can be just as violent as boxing — but that is incidental violence. It is the quality of *absolute* violence, the animal scent, the mighty and redundant bravery (boxers are warriors in an age that no longer needs them) that gives the sport its knife-edge glamour: while the hype, the sequinned shorts, the cigar-smoking *managers all represent a different type of glamour*, without which boxing would be merely atavistic and too much to take.

Absolute also is the nature of a boxer's failure and success. The knocking down of an opponent and the subsequent, literal raising up; the knocking down by an opponent and the literal fall; both of these become paradigms of the boxer's entire existence. And that is perhaps the truth which lay behind the script of "The Life of Lloyd Honeyghan (*from Las Vegas to The Latchmere Leisure Centre)*".

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

3.00 unless stated

Barclays League
First division

Aston Villa v Liverpool
Chelsea v Queen's Park Rangers
Luton v Southampton
Manchester Utd v Sunderland
Norwich v Leeds Utd (all ticket)
Nottm Forest v Coventry
Sheffield Utd v C Palace
Tottenham v Arsenal (all ticket)
Wimbledon v Derby County

Second division

Barnsley v Millwall
Bristol City v Swindon
Charlton v Bristol Rovers
Hull v Sheffield Wed (all ticket)
Ipswich v West Bromwich
Leicester v Port Vale
Middlesbrough v Plymouth
Newcastle v Blackburn
Oxford v Notts County
Portsmouth v Oldham
Watford v West Ham
Wolves v Brighton

Third division

Bradford v Bolton
Brentford v Mansfield
Bury v Bournemouth
Cambridge Utd v Fulham
Crewe v Southend
Exeter v Chester
Huddersfld v Swansea
Leyton Orient v Birmingham
Preston v Reading
Shrewsbury v Rotherham
Stoke v Tranmere
Wigan v Grimsby

Fourth division

Burnley v Darlington
Cardiff v Hartlepool
Carlisle v Peterborough
Chesterfield v Scarborough
Halifax v Lincoln
Northampton v Maidstone
Rochdale v Blackpool
Scunthorpe v Aldershot
Walsall v Stockport
Wrexham v Doncaster
York v Hereford

B and Q Scottish League
Premier division

Aberdeen v Hibernian
Hearts v St Mirren
Motherwell v Celtic
Rangers v Dunfermline
St Johnstone v Dundee Utd

First division

Brechin v Airdrie
Forfar v Clyde
Kilmarnock v Hamilton
Meadowbank v Ayr Utd
Morton v Raith Rovers
Partick Thistle v Falkirk

POSTPONED: Dundee v Clydebank.

Second division

Arbroath v Albion Rovers
Berwick v Cowdenbeath
Dumbarton v Queen of South
East Fife v Montrose
Queen's Park v Stenhousemuir
Stranraer v Stirling Albion

POSTPONED: Alloa v East Stirling.

FA TROPHY: First round: Barnet v Farnborough; Barrow v Chorley. Bognor v Aylesbury; Burton v Moor Green; Carshalton v Dartford; Dover v Dorking; Droylsden v Fleetwood; Enfield v Cheshunt; Fisher Ath v Redbridge Forest; Gateshead v Billingham; Gloucester v Yeovil; Gravesend v Cheltenham; Guisborough v Witton; Horwich v Bedworth; Hyde v Stafford Rangers; Kettering v Woking; Kidderminster v Sutton Utd; Leek Town v Altrincham; Macclesfield v Gretna. Molesey v Merthyr; Northwich v Tow Law; Runcorn v Boston; Salisbury v VS Rugby; Slough v Bath; South Bank v Bishop Auckland; Stroud v Metropolitan Police; Telford v Emley; Welling v Hayes; Windsor and Eton v Colchester; Wokingham v Wivenhoe; Wycombe v Wealdstone.

VAUXHALL LEAGUE: Premier division: Barking v Harrow; Basingstoke v Dagenham; Bishop's Stortford v Hendon; Kingstonian v Grays; St Albans v Marlow. First division: Croydon v Hitchin; Dulwich v Boreham Wood; Harlow v Whyteleafe; Heybridge Swifts v Chalfont St Peter; Lewes v Aveley; Walton and Hersham v Metropolitan Police, Wembley v Bromley; Worthing v Tooting and Mitcham. Second division south: Bracknell v Malden Vale; Banstead Athletic v Cove; Camberley v Harefield; Eastbourne v Chertsey; Epsom and Ewell v Petersfield; Feltham v Maidenhead; Flackwell Heath v Hungerford; Leatherhead v Hampton; Newbury v Abingdon; Ruislip Manor v Horsham; Southall v Egham. Second division north: Billericay v Finchley; Clapton v Tring; Edgware v Rainham; Hemel Hempstead v Saffron Walden; Hornchurch v Barton; Kingsbury v Witham; Purfleet v Hertford; Royston v Collier Row; Stevenage Borough v Basildon; Tilbury v Berkhamsted; Vauxhall Motors v Ware.

HFS LOANS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bangor City v Goole; Marine v Frickley; Mossley v Gainsborough, South Liverpool v Matlock; Southport v Shepshed; Stalybridge v Buxton. First division: Alfreton v Rhyl; Congleton v Rossendale; Curzon Ashton v Eastwood Town, Farsley Celtic v Lancaster; Netherfield v Caernarfon; Newtown v Radcliffe Borough; Whitley Bay v Warrington; Workington v Winsford; Worksop v Accrington Stanley.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bashley v Atherstone; Chelmsford v Crawley; Dorchester v Cambridge City; Rushden v Waterlooville; Weymouth v Halesowen; Worcester v Poole. Southern division: Buckingham v Andover; Bury v Margate; Canterbury v Burnham; Corinthians v Ashford Town; Erith and Belvedere v Fareham; Hythe v Newport, IoW; Trowbridge v Dunstable; Witney v Gosport Borough; Yate v Sudbury. Midland division: Alvechurch v Grantham; Bridgnorth v Stourbridge; Corby v Willenhall; Dudley v Nuneaton Borough; Hinckley v Redditch; Newport AFC v Leicester Utd; RC Warwick v Bilston; Spalding v Tamworth; Sutton Coldfield v Barry.

OVENDEN PAPERS COMBINATION: Southampton v Ipswich (2.00).

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Ards v Glentoran; Ballyclare v Newry; Carrick v Ballymena; Coleraine v Glenavon; Crusaders v Larne; Linfield v Bangor; Omagh v Distillery; Portadown v Cliftonville.

BASS NORTH WEST COUNTIES: First division: Ashton Utd v Vauxhall GM; Atherton LR v Bacup Borough; Clitheroe v Knowsley; Colwyn Bay v Leyland DAF; Flixton v Eastwood Hanley, Penrith v Nantwich; St Helens v Prescot; Salford v Darwen; Skelmersdale v Bootle.

ABACUS WELSH LEAGUE: National division: Brecon v Port Talbot; Cwmbran v Bridgend; Inter Cardiff v Ferndale; Pembroke v Ammanford; Ton Pentre v Haverfordwest.

NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Brandon v Blyth Spartans; Consett v Peterlee Newtown; Murton v Durham City; Seaham Red Star v Northallerton; Shildon v Newcastle Blue Star; Stockton v Alnwick, Whickham v Berryhill Athletic.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Barnstaple v Chippenham; Bristol Manor Farm v Dawlish; Clevedon v Liskeard Athletic; Exmouth v Plymouth Argyle. Frome v Bideford, Ottery St Mary v Taunton; Paulton v Mangotsfield; Radstock v Weston-super-Mare; Torrington v Chard; Tiverton v Saltash.

WEEKLY WYNNER LEAGUE: Premier division: Belper v Harrogate Railway; Maltby MW v Brigg; North Shields v Ossett Town; Ossett Albion v Winterton Rangers; Spennymoor Utd V Denaby; Sutton Town v Guiseley.

HOCKEY

POUNDSTRETCHER NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Neston v Cannock (Neston RC 1.00); East Grinstead v St Albans (Farlington School, Horsham 2.15); Stourport v Teddington (King Charles School, Kidderminster 2.00). Second division: Bournville v Gore Court (Shenley Court, SC 1.00); Broxbourne v Firebrands (Haileybury College, Hertford, 11.30); Harborne v Bream (Hadley Stadium, Birmingham, 12.45).

TYPHOO WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Chelmsford v Slough (Chelmer Park, 2.45); Clifton v Wimbledon (Dean Close School, 1.30); Ealing v Leicester (Dairy Meadow, Slough, 2.00); Hightown v Doncaster (Wyncote SC, 12.30); Sutton Coldfield v Ipswich (Cannock, 11.00).

GLENFIDDICH INTERNATIONAL INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIP (Glasgow, 9.30am).

BASKETBALL

CARLSBERG NATIONAL LEAGUE (8.00 unless stated) Men: First division: Derby v Worthing (7.30); Leicester v Thames Valley (7.30), Hemel Hempstead v Kingston. Second division: Broxbourne v Doncaster; Coventry v Plymouth; Manchester v Bury (6.00); Oldham v Brixton. Third division: Calderdale v Swindon; Chiltern v Barnsley; Leicester v Greenwich (5.30); North London v Kirklees (8.00). Women: First division: Rhondda v Sheffield (6.00); Tyneside v Manchester (7.30). Second division: Camberley v Northampton (4.45); Doncaster v South Tyneside (4.00); Hemel Hempstead v Wirral (6.00); Leicester v Harlesden (3.45).

ICE HOCKEY

HEINEKEN NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Cardiff v Ayr (6.30); Fife v Peterborough (7.15); Nottingham v Solihull (6.30). First division: Glasgow v Basingstoke (4.45); Medway v Trafford (5.15), Swindon v Romford (5.00); Telford v Bracknell (7.30).

LACROSSE

SOUTH OF ENGLAND ASSOCIATION: First division: Bath v Purley. Hampstead v Hillcroft; Hitchin v Beckenham; Kenton v London University.

BRINE NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Sale v Timperley. Second division: Leeds University v Urmston.

AVON INSURANCE SENIOR FLAGS: Second round: Heaton Mersey v Cheadle; Mellor v Old Hulmeians; Old Waconians v Stockport, Sheffield University v Sheffield Steelers.

OTHER SPORT

ATHLETICS: Omron indoor games (Cosford).

DARTS: World championship (Frimley Green).

SNOOKER: Mercantile Credit Classic (Bournemouth).

TABLE TENNIS: Cleveland county international championship (Thornaby Pavilion, Stockton-on-Tees, 9.00am).

RUGBY UNION

2.30 unless stated

Courage Clubs Championship
First division

Bath v Moseley (3.00)
Liverpool St H v Gloucester (2.45)
Northampton v Leicester (3.00)
Orrell v Harlequins (2.30)
Rosslyn Park v Nottingham
Saracens v Wasps

Second division

Blackheath v Richmond (3.00)
Coventry v London Irish (3.00)
London Scottish v Plymouth A
Newcastle Gosforth v Wakefield
Sale v Rugby (2.45)
Waterloo v Bedford (2.15)

Third division

Askeans v Nuneaton
Broughton Pk v Vale of Lune (3.00)
Exeter v Lydney (3.00)
Fylde v Clifton
Morley v Roundhay (2.15)
West Hartlepool v Sheffield (3.00)

Fourth division north

Birmingham v Walsall
Durham City v Northern (3.0)
Harrogate v Preston G (2.15)
Hereford v Stourbridge
Kendal v Stoke
Otley v Winnington Park

Fourth division south

Basingstoke v Redruth
Camborne v Southend (3.00)
Cheltenham v Maidstone
Havant v London Welsh
North Walsham v Sudbury
Weston-s-Mare v Maidenhead (3.00)

McEwan's Scottish League

All 2.00

First division

Boroughmuir v Stirling County
Currie v Stewart's Melville
Edinburgh A v Jed-Forest
Edinburgh W v Melrose
Glasgow HighK v Hawick
Heriot's FP v Selkirk
Kelso v Gala

Second division

Ayr v Dunfermline
Kilmarnock v Langholm
Kirkcaldy v Watsonians
Musselburgh v Hillhead-J'hill
Preston Lodge v Glasgow A
Royal High v Dundee HSFP
W of Scotland v Corstorphine

All Ireland League
First division

Constitution v Wanderers
Instonians v Garryowen
Lansdowne v Ballymena
Shannon v St Mary's College

Second division

CIYMS v Athlone
Greystones v Bangor
Sundays Well v NIFC
Terenure v Corinthians
Young Munster v Old Wesley

Heineken Welsh League
Premier division

Abertillery v Glamorgan W
Bridgend v Cardiff
Neath v Llanelli
Newbridge v Swansea

POSTPONED: Pontypridd v Pontypool.

First division

Cross Keys v Ebbw Vale (3.00)
Maesteg v Aberavon
Penarth v Newport
Tredegar v Sth Wales Police

Club match

Bristol v Headingley (3.00)

SCOTLAND: Representative match: Scotland under-19s v Australian Schools (at Murrayfield). Third division: Biggar v Howe of Fife; Trinity Academicals v Peebles; Haddington v Highland; Aberdeen GSFP v Gordonians; Portobello FP v Wigtownshire; Dalziel HSFP v Grangemouth; Clarkston v Perthshire. Fourth division: East Kilbride v Greenock Wanderers; Edinburgh University v St Boswell's; Morgan Academy FP v Lismore; Leith Academicals v Waysiders; Cartha Queen's Park v Cambuslang; Linlithgow v Dumfries; Hutchesons'/Aloysians v Penicuik. Fifth division: Ardrossan Academicals v Livingston; Broughton FP v Dunbar; Alloa v Hillfoots; Madras College FP v Aberdeenshire; Paisley v Murrayfield; Moray v Stewartry; Glenrothes v North Berwick. Sixth division: Aberdeen University v Earlston; Falkirk v Drumpellier; Lasswade v Walkerburn, Harris Academy FP v St Andrews University; Lenzie v Clydebank, Montrose v Cumbernauld, Carnoustie v Marr. Seventh division: Whitecraigs v Panmure; Garioch v Strathmore; Forrester FP v Ross High; Cumnock v Rosyth and District, Garnock v Birkmyre, Irvine v Holy Cross; RAF Kinloss v Duns.

SOUTH WEST: Courage Clubs Championship: First division: Berry Hill v Taunton; Brixham v St Ives; High Wycombe v Salisbury; Matson v Reading; Torquay v Stroud. Second division: Abbey v Oxford; Banbury v Marlow; Barnstaple v Henley; Bournemouth v Penryn; Redingensians v Newbury. Western Counties: Avonmouth v Launceston; Bridgwater v Penzance and Newlyn; Clevedon v Okehampton; Old Culverhaysians v Newquay Hornets; Truro v Tiverton. Southern Counties: Aylesbury v Swindon; Bletchley v Sherborne; Bracknell v Swanage and Warminster; Slough v Chiltern; Windsor v Wimborne. Cornwall and Devon: Bideford v Exmouth; Crediton v Plymouth CS; Devon and Cornwall Police v Illogan Park; Exeter Saracens v Hayle; Teignmouth v Sidmouth. Cornwall: First division: Bodmin v Saltash; Bude v St Austell; Falmouth v St Agnes; Roseland v Wadebridge; Stithians v Veor. Gloucester-Somerset: Cirencester v Spartans; Cleve v Frome; Coney Hill v Keynsham, Dings Crusaders v Midsomer Norton; Whitehall v Oldfield Old Boys. Gloucestershire: First division: Ashley Down v Longlevens; Bream v St Mary's Old Boys; North Bristol v Old Patesians; Saintbridge v Gloucester Old Boys; Widden Old Boys v Brockworth. Somerset: First division: Bristol Hornets v Old Sulians; Hornets v Wiveliscombe; Imperial v Walcot Old Boys; Old Redcliffians v St Bernadette Old Boys. Yatton v Yeovil. Berkshire, Dorset and Wiltshire: First division: Aldermaston v Corsham; Devizes v Melksham; Dorchester v Lytchett Minster; North Dorset v Chippenham; Wootton Bassett v Weymouth. Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire: First division: Beaconsfield v Olney; Chinnor v Littlemore; Didcot v Milton Keynes; Oxford Old Boys v Wheatley; Pennanians v Oxford Marathon.

NORTH: Courage Clubs Championship: First division: Halifax v Widnes; Hull Ionians v Birkenhead Park; Middlesbrough v Hartlepool Rovers; Rotherham v Bradford and Bingley; Wigton v Aspatria. Second division: Alnwick v Wharfedale; Carlisle v New Brighton; Huddersfield v Wigan; Lymm v Stockton; Sandbach v West Park (St Helens). North West: First division: Caldy v Sedgley Park; Egremont v Northwich; Macclesfield v Manchester; Netherhall v Wirral; Rochdale v Cockermouth. Second division: Ashton-on-Mersey v Wilmslow; Chester v Merseyside Police; St Edward's Old Boys v Penrith; Southport v Blackburn; Warrington v Old Aldwinians. NW-East North: First division: De la Salle Old Boys v Eccles; Kirkby Lonsdale v Keswick; Oldham v Moresby; Old Salians v Burnage; Vickers v Furness. NW-West: First division: Hoylake v Vulcan; Douglas v Ormskirk; Newton-le-Willows v Leigh; Oldershaw v Old Instonians; South Liverpool v Ruskin Park. North East: First division: Blaydon v Old Crossleyans; Gateshead Fell v Old Brodleians; Keighley v Bramley; Thornensians v Novocastrians; York v Morpeth. Second division: Beverley v Old Hymerians; Blyth v Ashington; Newcastle University v Selby; Westoe v Pontefract; West Park Bramhope v Ripon. Yorkshire: First division: Bridlington v Hemsworth; Castleford v Driffield. Malton and Norton v Barnsley; Pocklington v Doncaster; York RI v North Ribblesdale. Durham and Northumberland: First division: Acklam v Mowden Park; Darlington RA v Horden; Ryton v Sunderland; Seghill v Redcar; Whitby v Bishop Auckland. Club matches: Davenport v Roundhegians; Old Anselmians v Mossley Hill.

IRELAND: Ulster: Senior League: Armagh v Ards; Collegians v Academy; City of Derry v Queen's University; Portadown v Dungannon. Senior club: Malone v Old Belvedere. Leinster: Senior League: DLSP v Sective Rangers; Dublin University v Blackrock College; Monkstown v University College Dublin; Skerries v Clontarf.

RUGBY LEAGUE

REGAL TROPHY: Final: Bradford v Warrington (at Headingley, 2.15).

VOLLEYBALL

ROYAL BANK NATIONAL CUP: Men: Third round: Hilton Leeds v Radio Trent Rockets. Fourth round: Staffordshire Moorlands v Polonia; Aquila v Reebok Liverpool City. Women: Woolwich Brixton Knights v Reebok Liverpool City; GP Scorpions v Hilton Leeds; Ashcombe Spruce Dorking v Sovereign Leasing Sale.

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

Barclays League
First division

Everton v Manchester City (3.00)

LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Athlone v Waterford (2 15); Cork City v Bohemians (2.30). Dundalk v Derry (3.30); Limerick v Sligo (2.15); Shamrock v Galway (2.15).

RUGBY LEAGUE

3.00 unless stated

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP: First division: Featherstone v St Helens (3.30); Hull KR v Oldham (3 15); Leeds v Sheffield; Rochdale v Castleford; Widnes v Hull. Second division: Bramley v Batley (1 00); Carlisle v Doncaster (2 15); Chorley v Fulham; Halifax v Barrow; Keighley v Workington (3 15); Leigh v Hunslet (3.30); Ryedale-York v Swinton (3 15); Salford v Runcorn, Trafford v Huddersfield (3.30); Whitehaven v Nottingham (3.30).

HOCKEY

TYPHOO WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Ipswich v Hightown (11.30).

GLENFIDDICH INTERNATIONAL INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIP (Glasgow, 8.45am).

BASKETBALL

CARLSBERG NATIONAL LEAGUE (4.00 unless stated): Men: First division: Kingston v Manchester (3.30); London Docklands v Sunderland. Second division: Bury v Coventry; Birmingham v Cheshire (8.00); Middlesbrough v Watford. Third division: Kirklees v Calderdale. Women: First division: London Jets v Crystal Palace; London YMCA v Northampton (2.30); Nottingham v Brixton (3.30). Second division: Sunderland v Swindon; Wirral v Leicester (6.00).

ICE HOCKEY

HEINEKEN NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Cleveland v Peterborough (6.15); Murrayfield v Durham (6.30); Solihull v Ayr (7 00), Whitley v Fife (6.30). First division: Glasgow v Telford (4.45); Humberside v Basingstoke (6.15). Lee Valley v Romford (5.30). Medway v Swindon (5.15); Trafford v Bracknell (5.30).

ENGLISH LEAGUE: Chelmsford v Oxford City (6.30). Richmond v Sunderland (5.30); Sheffield v Haringey (6.15).

BADMINTON

ROYAL BANK INTER-COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: First division north: Lancashire v Lothian (1.45). Second division: Nottinghamshire v Worcestershire (1 30); Yorkshire II v North Strathclyde (1.30).

OTHER SPORT

FENCING: Scottish open tournament (Stirling University).

SNOOKER: Sky World Masters (NEC Birmingham).

TABLE TENNIS: Cleveland county international championship (Thornaby Pavilion, Stockton-on-Tees, 8.30am).

SPORT ON TELEVISION

Today

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: C4 12.30-13.00: Red 42. Screensport 10.00-11.00: College match. BSB 18.00-19.00 and 00.30-03.30 (tomorrow): National Football League.

BASKETBALL: BSB 10.00-12.00. Screensport 14.00-15.00: NBA.

BOXING: Eurosport 20.45-21.45.

CYCLING: Eurosport 17.45-18.45: Six-day race from Cologne.

DARTS: BBC2 16.40-18.25: World championship, final from Frimley Green.

EUROSPORT SATURDAY: Eurosport 09.30-17.45: Skiing: World Cup; Swimming: World championships from Perth; Snooker World Masters preview.

FOOTBALL: Screensport 19 15-20 15: Spanish league. BSB 22.30-23.30: Scottish league.

GOLF: Screensport 21.00-22.00: US PGA.

GRANDSTAND: BBC1 12.15-17.05: Rugby League: Regal Trophy, final; Swimming: World championships from Perth; Skiing: World Cup from Austria; Table Tennis: England v France from Sunderland; Racing: 12.50, 1.25, 2.0 from Ascot and 1.45 from Leopardstown.

KICK BOXING: Screensport 13.00-14.00.

MOTOR SPORT: Eurosport 09.00-09.30, 21.45-22.00 and midnight-00.15: Motor sport news and Paris to Dakar rally. BSB 14.00-15.30. Screensport 18.00-19.00, 19.45-20.45 and 23.00-midnight: Paris to Dakar rally.

POWERSPORTS INTERNATIONAL: Screensport 16.00-17.00.

RACING: BSB 13.30-14.00 and 23.30-midnight.

RUGBY LEAGUE: BSB 21.00-22.00.

SAINT AND GREAVSIE: ITV 12.30-13.00.

SKIING: Eurosport 00 15-01.15 (see Eurosport Saturday): World Cup.

SNOOKER: Screensport 08.00-09.00: Norwich Union grand prix. ITV 15.05-16.45 and 22.45-00.30: Mercantile Credit Classic.

SWIMMING: Eurosport 22.00-midnight (see Eurosport Saturday): World championships from Perth.

YACHTING: Eurosport 18.45-19.15: BOC round the world single-handed race.

Tomorrow

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: Screensport 00.20-01 20. 07 00-08.00 and 16.00-17 00: College matches. C4 20.30-22.00 and 00 10-00.40 (Monday). National Football League.

BASKETBALL: Screensport 03.00-04.00: NBA. Eurosport 10.00-11.00: European Cup.

BOXING: BSB 13.30-17.00.

CRICKET: BBC2 16.10-17.00: World Series Cup, final.

EUROSPORT SUNDAY: Eurosport 11.00-14.00: Swimming: World championships from Perth; Skiing: World Cup.

FOOTBALL: BSB 10.00-11.00. 16.00-22.00 and 00.30-02.30 (Monday): Scottish league, and 13.15-15.20: Italian league. ITV 14.55-17.05: The Match: Everton v Manchester City.

GOLF: Screensport 22.00-23.00: US PGA.

ICE HOCKEY: Screensport 05.00-06.00 and 10.00-11.00: National Hockey League.

MOTORCYCLING: BSB 12.00-13.00 and 17 00-18.00

MOTOR SPORT: Eurosport 18.00-19.00, 20.00-10.15 and 00 15-00.30 (Monday): Motor sport news and Paris to Dakar rally. Screensport 14.00-15.00, 18.00-20.00 and 21 45-22.45: Winter series from Lydden Hill, and Paris to Dakar rally.

POLO: Screensport 09 00-10.00.

RUGBY SPECIAL: BBC2 17.00-18.00: Orrell v Harlequins and Northampton v Leicester.

SNOOKER: Screensport 08.00-09.00: Norwich Union grand prix. Eurosport 14.00-18.00 and 19.00-22 00: World Masters from Birmingham. BSB 18.30-19.30 and 22.30-midnight: World Masters from Birmingham.

SKI SUNDAY: BBC2 18.00-18.35: World Cup from Austria.

SWIMMING: Eurosport 22.15-00.15 (see Eurosport Sunday): World championships from Perth.

TABLE TENNIS: Screensport 15.00-16.00: European Cup.

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THE TIMES

UNIT TRUST STATISTICS

Monthly performance figures show value of £100 based on offer to offer prices without income re-invested and ranking within their sector. Yearly figures are based on offer to bid prices with income re-invested. – Unit trust was founded in the past year. †PEP scheme available. *Source: Finstat.*

UK GENERAL

Fund	Bid price	Offer price	1 month perf	1 month rank	1 year perf	1 year rank
Abbey Gen	148.7	155.8	97.0	56	78.2	74
Abbey Income & Gth	258.3	276.2	97.5	35	79.5	51
Alld Dunbar Accumulator	731.4	778.9	97.5	35	84.5	13
† Alld Dunbar Asset Value	341.0	363.1	96.8	60	81.2	37
† Alld Dunbar Balanced	451.2	480.5	99.0	18	84.1	14
† Alld Dunbar Growth & Inc	158.5	168.8	97.9	19	83.8	17
Asset Gth	68.00	72.46	93.9	103	62.2	101
† Aviva Equity	78.51	83.52	96.5	77	85.4	8
† Barclays Uni 500	282.4	302.8	95.3	13	73.0	89
† Barclays Uni Gen	170.8	182.7	97.8	23	81.7	30
Barclays Uni Trustee	119.7	128.0	95.0	95	73.4	87
Barclaytrust Invst	226.8	236.3	97.6	30	79.3	53
Baring Portfolio	81.02	84.45	96.8	60	85.4	8
† Bishopsgate PEP Inc	96.36	101.7	104.7	1	89.0	4
Brown UK & Gen	28.51	30.32	94.1	102	58.0	102
Brown Shipley PEP	48.59	51.48	103.0	2	–	–
Brown Shipley UK Gen	100.2	106.7	98.5	10	76.0	76
Brycoon Income Gth	160.9	167.4	98.9	8	83.4	44
† Buckmaster Gen	234.0	248.0	97.2	48	70.9	95
Buckmaster Inv Portfolio	44.21	45.76	95.8	88	75.1	81
Cannon Gth	32.95	35.25	93.9	103	77.9	64
† Capability Income & Gth	284.75	302.9	97.3	44	81.7	30
Capital Hse Asset Value	141.7	150.7	95.3	92	80.3	48
CGL UK Gen	45.51	48.41	94.9	95	74.1	85
Clerical Med General Equity	52.83	55.76	97.5	35	83.8	17
Colonial Mutual Capital	42.38	45.33	96.7	66	75.8	79
† Confederation Gth	34.98	37.41	97.1	50	81.1	41
Consultant Tst	24.28	25.87	100.2	4	88.4	2
Cornhill UK Equity	42.70	45.43	95.8	88	70.0	96
† Crown Gth	286.7	319.0	95.1	94	78.5	61
CS Portfolio	57.26	60.91	99.9	6	73.8	86
† CU Quilter Gen	88.25	93.89	97.6	30	80.9	42
† CU UK & Gen	53.65	57.09	97.6	30	74.4	82
Discretionary	109.4	114.1	98.3	13	68.9	97
† Eagle Star UK Balanced	79.38	84.45	97.4	41	75.7	77
† Equitable Pelican	90.16	94.91	97.8	23	79.1	54
Equity & Law Gen	290.5	309.2	94.7	99	83.2	20
† Equity & Law UK Gth	161.8	172.2	96.7	66	83.6	19
† Fidelity Growth & Inc	109.1	117.0	97.5	35	75.7	77
Fleming Capital Portfolio	98.63	101.3	95.2	93	76.1	75
† Framlington Income & Gth	135.4	144.0	96.8	70	68.7	98
Friends Prov Equity	240.57	255.93	97.8	23	77.7	66
GA Gande	152.5	161.7	96.6	70	79.9	50
GAM UK Diversified	101.23	107.49	101.4	3	–	–
GAM UK Special	101.14	107.59	94.2	101	66.2	100
Gartmore UK Index	93.57	97.98	97.1	50	84.0	15
GRE Guardhill	306.3	317.4	98.9	55	72.0	92
Guins Mahon T B Sm Cos	177.0	190.0	96.4	79	66.8	99
Henderson Inc & Assets	128.28	135.75	96.8	60	78.7	55
† Henderson Income & Gth	176.47	189.07	96.6	70	78.1	61
† Hill Samuel British	64.30	68.77	95.7	68	82.1	26
† Hill Samuel Inc & Gth	99.51	106.4	96.6	70	78.1	61
Holborn Equity	497.96	521.88	97.7	27	78.5	58
† KB Gen	201.0	213.8	94.9	96	78.6	57
† KB PEP Inc	7.941	8.448	94.8	98	77.6	67
† LAS Income & Gth	51.17	54.44	97.9	19	81.9	27
Laurence Keen Income & Gth	39.05	41.55	97.4	41	72.9	90
Laurentian Undervalued Asset	48.93	52.05	96.6	70	76.6	71
Lazard UK Income & Gth	250.4	256.2	97.3	44	81.2	37
Lloyds Balanced	229.41	241.48	96.1	89	85.7	7
London & Mngd Gen	54.57	58.55	97.2	48	83.9	16
M&G Gen	39.70	42.00	94.5	100	78.1	61
† M&G Midland	37.90	40.60	97.4	41	71.9	93
† M&G Second Gen	40.30	42.60	93.9	103	73.1	88
M&G Trustee	25.60	27.40	97.9	19	74.3	84
Manulife Growth Acc	114.4	123.3	97.8	23	78.5	58
† Marks & Spenc UK Sel Port	93.97	99.70	96.8	60	77.8	65
Matheson UK Gth	57.45	61.44	96.2	82	80.5	43
Mayflower British Leaders	241.0	258.4	97.7	27	83.0	21
† Mercury Gen	328.0	349.0	97.5	35	81.9	27
MGM UK Gth	267.1	284.1	98.1	17	76.4	72
† Midland Inc	214.0	228.9	95.9	86	81.4	36
† MIM Brit Assets & Earnings	51.88	55.12	96.5	77	77.5	69
† Royal London Spec Sits	109.4	116.3	98.2	49	70.7	119
Royal London UK Gth	45.49	48.39	100.2	5	74.7	90
† S&P Scotshares	190.4	202.5	100.0	7	78.3	59
† S&P Special Sits	86.24	91.74	97.4	98	63.6	157
† S&P UK Equity	192.0	204.2	97.9	61	74.3	94
† S&P UK Smlr Cos Gth	40.12	42.68	97.6	69	73.2	103
S&W Gth	85.70	90.98	98.1	52	71.5	116
S&W Smlr Securities	188.4	194.6	97.5	87	57.7	178
Schroder Enterprise Acc	134.3	143.2	99.9	9	86.3	7
Schroder Recovery (Inst)	1049	1115	95.7	148	74.0	98
Schroder Smlr Cos	126.8	135.2	98.1	52	68.0	133
Schroder UK Sm Cos (Inst)	70.96	75.49	98.8	28	65.4	143
Scimitar UK Capital Growth A	24.95	26.45	98.5	39	76.5	56
Scot Am Equity	40.23	42.85	95.8	145	77.8	66
† Scot Am Equity Strategy	47.74	50.44	97.0	127	77.6	69
Scot Am UK Sm Co	38.19	39.54	100.9	4	88.3	127
Scot Equit Ethical	19.44	20.80	97.7	72	81.0	36
Scot Mut UK Smlr Cos Equity	159.0	169.2	98.7	30	63.8	154
Scot Mut UK Spec Sits	48.02	51.09	98.0	58	64.8	145
Scot Prov Equity Gth	17.79	19.04	97.2	114	84.1	15
† Sovereign Ethical	40.38	42.96	97.7	72	78.3	58
† Sovereign UK Gth	44.37	47.33	97.6	61	79.3	51
Standard Life UK Equity Gth	38.02	40.40	97.7	72	83.2	21
Sun Alliance Equity Tst	501.2	530.0	98.4	44	77.9	62
Sun Life Of Canada UK Gth	27.83	29.77	97.2	114	77.5	71
Target UK Capital	75.82	81.24	96.7	149	81.2	33
Thornbill Capital	46.49	49.45	98.8	37	82.9	22
Thomson UK Small Cos	41.35	44.22	96.7	149	68.9	130
† TR Smlr Cos	53.85	57.39	97.6	81	60.6	170
† TR Special Opportunities	58.82	60.23	94.7	182	55.1	186
TSB British Gth	63.76	67.85	96.4	161	84.8	12
TSB Environmental Investor	40.07	42.82	96.9	135	79.7	47
TSB Select Opportunity	68.08	72.42	94.4	183	70.5	121
TSB Smlr Cos	39.05	41.54	94.8	181	64.5	151
Tyndall British Lion	77.03	81.86	97.2	114	81.3	32
Tyndall Smlr Cos	50.68	53.71	98.1	52	61.5	168
UTAM Friars House Capital	166.1	176.0	97.4	98	73.5	100
Wardley UK Gth	128.2	137.1	95.9	171	65.5	142
Waverley Penny Share	18.43	19.6	97.1	122	58.9	172
† Western UK Gth	96.82	107.5	97.9	61	84.4	14
† Yorkshire Gen	41.03	44.31	97.5	87	63.7	158
Sector Average/Totals	–	–	97.4	197	72.6	191

Fund	Bid price	Offer price	1 month perf	1 month rank	1 year perf	1 year rank
NM Gilt & FI	51.43	54.44	100.5	23	98.6	28
Norwich Gilt & Conv	92.48	98.38	98.9	47	96.8	34
Prolific Preference & FI	35.53	37.84	96.8	52	79.1	47
Prosperity Gilt	23.49	24.22	100.8	14	103.0	11
S&P Gilt & FI Inc	45.60	48.19	100.9	9	102.9	12
Schroder Fixed Interest	48.70	49.19	100.1	36	98.5	30
Schroder Gilt	108.6	114.3	101.1	3	111.9	2
Sovereign Controlled Perform	43.85	46.77	98.9	47	84.9	44
Standard Life UK Gilt & FI	25.65	27.13	100.4	26	99.4	24
Swiss Life Fixed Interest	237.2	245.8	100.8	14	102.6	18
Target Preference	17.11	18.40	96.3	55	74.9	50
† TSB Prestige Inc	42.5	44.27	98.0	46	93.8	40
Whittingdale Sht Dtd Gilt	89.25	90.44	101.0	6	109.7	4
Sector Average/Totals	–	–	100.0	55	90.4	52

Fund	Bid price	Offer price	1 month perf	1 month rank	1 year perf	1 year rank
CU Worldwide Bond	43.38	46.15	100.2	13	87.8	10
Fidelity International Bond	23.04	24.40	102.1	2	86.8	13
† FS Global Bond	21.22	22.70	103.2	1	86.3	15
Gartmore Intl Fixed Int	21.30	22.42	98.2	17	91.6	9
Legal & General Intl Bond	40.68	43.23	100.8	7	87.8	10
MGM International Bond	48.18	50.65	101.2	6	92.2	7
MIM Brit International Bond	40.58	42.97	100.0	15	86.6	14
Norwich Intl Bond	89.86	95.60	100.5	12	85.0	17
Prov Cap Worldwide Bond	48.97	51.62	100.8	7	95.5	2
S&P International Bond	119.5	127.1	100.7	10	93.2	5
Sun Alliance Worldwide Bond	43.21	45.97	100.8	7	85.1	16
Waverley Global Bond	0.9984	1.04	101.8	5	87.5	12
Whittingdale US Govt Bond	.6282	.6353	102.0	3	92.1	8
Sector Average/Totals	–	–	100.8	17	89.5	17

Fund	Bid price	Offer price	1 month perf	1 month rank	1 year perf	1 year rank
GT European	279.70	296.40	92.6	49	63.9	108
GT Germany	81.48	86.51	91.9	75	75.5	21
Guins Mahon European Gth	57.29	61.30	91.4	92	74.3	29
Hambros European	109.4	116.1	93.2	34	79.0	8
Hambros Scandinavian	89.73	95.20	90.7	107	70.9	56
Henderson Euro	258.95	274.73	89.8	115	65.9	103
Henderson Euro Inc	51.28	54.24	94.0	18	82.0	2
Henderson Euro Sm Cos	94.83	100.61	90.9	101	68.6	81
Hill Samuel European	136.5	149.1	92.7	47	71.6	49
Holborn European	118.78	127.03	93.9	20	68.5	82
James Capel Euro Gth	60.98	65.07	91.9	75	72.0	42
James Capel European Index	95.30	101.7	92.4	56	68.0	88
KB European	96.44	103.1	92.3	58	70.7	57
KB European Spec	67.17	72.08	92.0	71	67.0	97
LAS European	45.75	48.67	93.5	24	71.2	51
Laurentian Euro Undvlue Ass	54.98	58.49	94.6	14	69.6	66
Lazard European Gth	65.68	66.38	95.7	5	83.9	1
Legal & General European	70.53	75.03	91.8	79	70.2	61
Lloyds Corp Euro Gth	37.02	38.97	94.1	16	72.5	36
Lloyds Gartmore Gth	79.01	83.17	92.1	68	79.3	7
M&G European	343.3	363.9	93.0	37	75.2	24
M&G European Dividend	41.30	43.70	95.4	6	78.8	11
Manulife European	46.61	49.58	90.1	113	69.3	69
Martin Currie European	47.32	50.23	90.4	112	67.9	90
Mercury European Gth	138.0	146.8	91.6	83	68.5	82
Mercury European Inc	55.97	59.56	88.2	117	65.3	105
Metropolitan Eurogrowth Plus	61.58	65.51	92.3	58	90.5	3
Midland European Gth	115.5	123.1	91.1	84	68.2	85
MIM Brit Euro Smlr Cos	16.32	17.56	94.6	14	71.1	53
MIM Brit European	79.02	84.96	92.9	41	65.4	102
MIM Brit French Gth	43.32	46.39	93.1	36	70.1	63
Morgan Gren Euro Gth	175.8	187.6	92.8	45	73.7	33
Murray European	46.33	49.50	94.0	18	69.1	73
New Court Smlr Euro Co	179.17	191.97	93.3	30	74.9	26
NM European	124.80	133.10	93.0	37	74.3	29
Norwich Pan European	83.22	88.53	96.1	3	–	–
Norwich Union European	112.54	119.72	92.1	66	72.3	39
NPI European	60.51	64.37	93.0	37	67.9	90
Pearl New Europe	45.16	47.54	94.1	16	–	–
Perpetual European Gth	74.45	79.63	92.9	41	70.4	59
Pilgrim European	38.01	40.44	95.3	7	–	–
Prolific European Gth & Inc	44.87	47.83	92.3	58	69.5	68
Prosperity European	33.50	35.64	90.9	101	63.7	109

Fund	Bid price	Offer price	1 month perf	1 month rank	1 year perf	1 year rank
M&G Australian	84.30	89.10	99.5	2	60.3	7
New Court Aust Smlr Cos	41.80	44.93	99.6	1	59.4	8
NM Australian	133.50	143.20	97.2	4	66.1	3
Schroder Australian	88.59	94.49	96.7	5	60.9	6
Target Australian	5.002	5.354	93.4	11	52.6	12
Thornton Kangaroo	21.77	23.12	95.7	7	61.0	5
Tyndall Austral Value	34.80	36.90	95.7	3	73.2	1
Wardley Australian	40.09	42.87	89.7	12	57.2	10
Sector Average/Totals	–	–	95.9	12	61.1	12

COMMODITY & ENERGY

Fund	Bid price	Offer price	1 month perf	1 month rank	1 year perf	1 year rank
Abbey Commodity & Energy	70.95	75.88	100.1	15	56.8	22
Alld Dunbar Met Min & Comm	97.67	104.0	97.3	23	66.8	9
BG Energy	277.5	299.5	97.8	20	77.7	2
CU PPT Commodities	42.26	44.95	98.0	19	61.3	17
CU PPT Gold	29.33	31.20	108.5	5	59.9	19
EFM Resources	17.73	18.77	97.6	22	63.0	15
Henderson Global Resources	61.85	66.41	100.0	16	67.4	7
Hill Samuel Ntl Resources	42.42	45.36	101.9	11	64.3	12
James Capel Gold & Gen	50.08	53.44	101.6	12	66.6	10
Legal & General Natural Res	65.14	69.30	96.4	18	57.3	21
Lloyds Energy International	55.10	58.62	91.6	25	71.6	4
M&G Commodity & Gen	202.2	213.2	98.6	17	66.3	11
M&G Gold & Gen	33.30	35.10	107.9	6	58.7	20
Merlin Jupiter Res & Gen	94.33	100.3	97.7	21	69.4	5
MIM Brit Commodity Share	29.65	31.50	100.8	14	68.8	6
MIM Brit Gold	33.41	35.83	110.6	4	60.7	18
NM Gold	29.56	31.78	111.0	3	63.4	14
Prov Cap Gold Tst	41.15	44.15	113.0	2	–	–
S&P Commodity	68.69	73.07	103.1	8	72.7	3
S&P Energy Industries	76.59	81.47	94.7	24	78.9	1
S&P Gold & Exploration	36.04	38.34	114.2	1	64.0	13
Target Gold & Gen	35.20	37.91	102.8	9	61.8	16
Thornton Golden Opps	25.12	26.75	102.3	10	52.4	23
TSB Natural Resources	56.15	58.66	104.1	7	65.3	8
Waverley Australasian Gold	8.12	8.63	101.3	13	45.2	24
Sector Average/Totals	–	–	102.2	25	64.4	24

FINANCIAL & PROPERTY

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

THE POUND

US dollar
1.9075 (+0.0015)

German mark
2.9233 (+0.0023)

Exchange index
93.7 (–0.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1646.0 (–4.3)

FT-SE 100
2106.1 (–2.6)

New York Dow Jones
2493.32 (–5.44)*

Tokyo Nikkei Avge
23241.02 (+193.66)

Closing Prices ... Page 32

Major indices and major changes Page 33

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 14%
3-month Interbank 13 31/32-13⅞%
3-month eligible bills: 13⅝-13 11/32%
US: Prime Rate 9½%
Federal Funds 6⅝%*
3-month Treasury Bills 6.20-6.18%*
30-year bonds 104 11/32-104⅜*

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£: $1.9075	£: $1.9070*
£: DM2.9233	$: DM1.5330*
£: SwFr2.4416	$: SwFr1.2800*
£: FFr9.9200	$: FFr5.2040*
£: Yen255.89	$: Yen134.20*
£: Index:93.7	$: Index:61.8
ECU £0.700694	SDR £0.732297
£: ECU1.427156	£: SDR1.365566

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM $390.40 pm-$390.60
close $391.00-391.50 (£205.00-205.50)
New York:
Comex $392.75-393.25*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Feb) ...... $26.05 bbl ($26.25)
* Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.565	2.405
Austria Sch	21.50	20.10
Belgium Fr	63.00	59.00
Canada $	2.315	2.165
Denmark Kr	11.75	11.05
Finland Mkk	7.39	6.94
France Fr	10.32	9.72
Germany Dm	3.055	2.865
Greece Dr	327	307
Hong Kong $	15.35	14.55
Ireland Pt	1.14	1.07
Italy Lira	2300	2160
Japan Yen	270.50	254.50
Netherlands Gld	3.435	3.225
Norway Kr	11.92	11.22
Portugal Esc	273	257
South Africa Rd	5.40	4.80
Spain Pta	191	179
Sweden Kr	11.35	10.67
Switzerland Fr	2.56	2.40
Turkey Lira	5900	5400
USA $	1.995	1.875
Yugoslavia Dnr	30.00	23.00

Rates for small denomination bank only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.
Retail Price Index: 130.0 (November)

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Jan	Apr	Jul	Puts Jan	Apr	Jul
Alld Lyon (*480)	420	65	83	88	1	5	10
	460	27	52	60	4	14	23
	500	4½	27	38	24	33	42
ASDA (*122)	110	15	–	–	1	–	–
	120	6	–	–	3	–	–
	130	1½	7	13	10	14	16
Bass (*1049)	1000	65	112	135	4	22	32
	1050	25	77	104	19	42	54
	1100	7	48	79	55	68	78
Boots (*326)	300	30	44	50	1½	7	11
	330	6	23	31	10	17	22
	360	1	11	19	34	38	38
Brit Air (*142)	130	16	22	25	2	5	7
	140	8	18	19	3½	10	13
	150	2	7	9	19	20	24
BP (*321)	300	24	34	43	2	8	11
	330	6	16½	24	14½	22	24
	360	2½	7½	14	40	40	44
Brit Steel (*117)	110	8½	14	17	1	4	6
	120	2	7½	11	5½	8	12
	130	¾	3½	6½	14	14½	18
C & W (*448)	420	32	58	67	3	14	20
	460	7	30	43	20	32	39
	500	1½	16	27	58	60	63
Com Union (*456)	420	38	50	60	1	11	14
	460	8	21	35	12	28	30
	500	1	8½	19	48	60	62
Courtauld (*312)	300	16	31	38	3½	11	16
	330	1½	15	22	21	28	32
	360	1	6½	12	50	51	52
GKN (*323)	280	45	50	53	1	9	12
	300	25	35	40	2	15	20
	330	5	18	25	14	30	33
Grand Met (*675)	600	64	89	106	2	12	17
	650	23	53	72	12	28	34
	700	3½	28	47	48	53	60
ICI (*874)	800	89	89	115	4½	25	28
	850	35	62	85	10	45	50
	900	12	35	60	32	70	77
Kingfisher (*385)	360	28	48	54	3½	9	18
	390	7	29	37	14	21	29
	420	1	16	24	40	40	44
Ladbroke (*234)	240	8	17	24	9	15	20
	260	2	10	16	27	29	31
	280	1	6	10	46	46	47
Land Sec (*521)	460	65	82	90	2	5	10
	500	28	50	58	4½	13	22
	550	2	22	32	30	37	45
M & S (*226)	200	28	37	–	1	3	–
	220	10	22	26	4	9	12
	240	2	12	17	17	19	23
STC (*321)	280	42	42	43	½	½	½
	300	22	22	23	¾	3	5
	330	1	2	1	12	14	15
Sainsbury (*309)	280	32	45	50	1	4	7
	300	14	29	36	3	10	14
	330	2	13	21	23	25	27
Shell (*444)	420	30	40	52	4	13	17
	460	6	21	30	20	35	38
	500	2	8	17	58	65	70
Smkl Beech (*600)	550	55	75	93	2	11	17
	600	15	43	62	13	29	35
	650	2	20	37	50	58	63
Storehse (*104)	100	8	15	17	4	6	8½
	110	3	9	13	7	10	14
	120	¾	6	8	18	18	20
Trafalgar (*197)	180	24	33	34	3	8	14
	200	6	23	24	7	16	23
	220	2	14	–	23	28	–
Ultramar (*319)	300	25	35	47	4	11	16
	330	5	18	30	18	24	28
	360	3	9	18	45	47	48
Unilever (*665)	600	75	92	102	2	8	12
	650	32	52	68	4½	21	28
	700	6	26	41	35	47	55
	750	2	11	–	85	87	–
Utd Bisc (*321)	300	25	33	40	2½	10	13
	330	4	14	22	13	24	28
	360	1	5	–	42	44	–
	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
BAA (*383)	360	35	52	68	4	13	19
	390	14	33	40	16	24	32
	420	6	18	27	38	43	45
BAT Ind (*580)	500	82	109	122	2	8	12
	550	50	70	85	8	20	27
	600	20	42	57	30	47	50
	650	7	–	–	70	–	–
BTR (*317)	280	45	50	59	2	7	10
	300	29	34	42	6	14	16
	330	10	18	28	17	28	30
Brit Aero (*524)	500	43	57	70	11	24	30
	550	15	28	45	32	50	55
	600	4	14	–	77	82	–
Brit Tele (*274)	260	24	36	42	3	6	11
	280	9½	23½	30	10	14	19
	300	3½	12½	19	23	26	30
Cadbury (*322)	300	33	39	50	4	11	14
	330	13	21	33	15	25	27
	360	4½	12	20	40	44	46
Guinness (*763)	700	77	96	115	5½	18	23
	750	40	63	83	18	35	42
	800	16	38	58	47	62	70
GEC (*169)	160	15	22	25	3½	5½	8½
	180	4	11	14	12	14	17½
	200	1½	5	7	30	31	33
Hanson (*185)	160	29	35	38	1½	3	4½
	180	11½	20	24	5	7	10
	200	3	9½	13	17	17	20
LASMO (*359)	330	45	52	63	5	8	13
	360	23	35	45	14	25	27
	390	11	22	30	35	40	42
P & O (*506)	460	60	70	80	4	19	22
	500	30	42	54	15	35	43
	550	9	22	35	47	65	72
Pilkington (*186)	160	31	39	40	2	5	8
	180	14	25	27	5½	10	16
	200	6	14	17	17	21	24

	Series	Calls Feb	May	Aug	Puts Feb	May	Aug
Prudential (*197)	180	24	28	32	2	5½	7
	200	8	14	20	7½	14	15½
	220	1½	6	10½	24	28	29
Racal (*170)	160	17½	27	31	4½	10	12
	180	7	16	21	15	19	22
	200	2½	8½	14	31	34	35
RTZ (*426)	390	47	57	67	7	16	22
	420	25	37	49	15	27	32
	460	10	19	31	40	53	57
Scot & New (*355)	330	33	50	57	4	9	14
	360	16	31	37	18	22	27
	390	4½	18	24	37	37	45
Tesco (*228)	200	33	38	43	2	2	3½
	220	15	22	29	4	8	9
	240	5	11	18	14	19	20
Thames Wtr (*264)	240	24	32	38	2½	5	10
	260	9	20	26	8	13	19
	280	3	12	16	24	25	30
Wtr Package (*22626)	2300	330	–	–	15	–	–
	2350	280	–	–	25	–	–
	2400	230	–	–	50	–	–
	Series	Jan			Jan		
Ferranti (*14)	20	¾	–	–	6	–	–
	25	½	–	–	11	–	–
	29	¼	–	–	15	–	–
	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
Lucas (*129)	120	18	23	28	2½	7	9
	130	10	17	22	6	11	13
	140	6	12	18	12	18	18
	Series	Feb	Apr	Jul	Feb	Apr	Jul
Fisons (*358)	330	40	46	–	3	7½	–
	360	18	26	41	12	18	21
	390	6½	13	27	32	36	37
	Series	Mar	Jun	Sep	Mar	Jun	Sep
Abbey Nat (*219)	200	28	30	–	3	5	–
	220	12½	17½	21	11	12	15
	240	4½	9	13	25	26	27
Amstrad (*63)	50	16	16¾	20	2½	3	3
	60	8	12	13½	5	6½	8
	70	3½	7	9	12	13	14
Barclays (*344)	330	31	38	45	16	20	26
	360	14	23	30	31	35	40
	390	5	13	19	58	58	60
Blue Circ (*203)	200	19	23	27	10	17	18
	220	8	13	18	22	28	31
	240	4½	8	12	40	44	46
Brit Gas (*226)	200	32	41	44	2	3½	6½
	220	16	25	29	7	9	12
	240	7½	14	17	16	19	22
Dixons (*142)	130	17	24	25	6	7	11
	140	12	17	19	8	13	15
	160	4½	9	11	24	25	26
Glaxo (*842)	800	65	97	122	20	30	38
	850	38	70	92	44	52	62
	900	19	45	69	74	80	87
Hawker (*428)	390	55	67	72	9	22	25
	420	35	47	55	20	35	37
	460	20	29	37	43	60	63
Hillsdown (*240)	220	31	36	42	4½	8	10
	240	18	23	30	11	17	18
	260	8½	14	20	24	27	30
Lonrho (*207)	200	15	21	26	14	16	19
	220	7	14	17	26	28	32
Midland (*169)	160	17	20	23	10	12	15
	180	7	11	14	24	25	28
	200	3	6	9½	43	43	44
Reuter (*700)	650	97	128	148	30	50	60
	700	67	97	123	50	70	80
	750	40	–	–	79	–	–
R-Royce (*154)	140	21	23	27	4	7	9
	160	8	11	17	11	16	18
	180	3	5½	9	26	30	32
Sears (*84)	70	18	21	21	1½	3½	4½
	80	10	13	14	4½	6½	8
	90	4½	7	9	9	12	14
THF (*237)	220	31	33	40	5	10	12
	240	15	20	28	12	18	20
	260	7	11	20	23	30	32
Thorn EMI (*667)	600	87	106	107	7	12	18
	650	46	71	72	17	26	36
	700	22	38	44	42	45	61
TSB (*131)	120	14	18	–	2	3½	–
	130	7	12	14	6½	8	10
	140	3	6½	8½	14	15	18
Vaal Reefs (*368)	60	13	16	17	5	8	10
	70	7½	12	13	11	13	15
Wellcome (*425)	390	55	70	–	10	16	–
	420	34	51	67	19	26	30
	460	16	32	45	41	46	50
	Series	Jan	Mar	May	Jan	Mar	May
Eastn Elc (*136)	120	19	23	26	1	2	3½
	130	10	15	19	2½	4	5½
	140	3	8	12	5½	8	10
Southrn Elc (*142)	130	18	22	26	2	4	5½
	140	8	14	18	4	7	8½
	160	1½	4½	6	18	19	21
Elc Package (*21485)	1400	90	145	–	15	45	–
	1450	60	120	–	30	60	–
	1500	30	90	–	55	80	–

FT-SE INDEX (*22108)

	2000	2050	2100	2150	2200	2250
Calls						
Jan	149	107	69	43	22	11
Feb	178	140	108	77	55	38
Mar	213	175	138	108	77	62
Apr	230	197	165	127	105	84
Jun	250	–	183	–	132	–
Puts						
Jan	16	27	40	67	99	143
Feb	35	47	64	88	117	151½
Mar	50	60	77	100	123	155
Apr	57	71	85	110	133	165
Jun	72	–	102	–	153	–

January 11, 1991 Total: 21171 Calls 12315 Puts 8858 FT-SE: Calls 805 Puts 2822
*Underlying security price.

Mines at risk in battle over coal costs

By Ross Tieman, Industrial Correspondent

BRITISH Coal Corporation will come under severe pressure for a rigorous round of pit closures if it fails to have anti-dumping levies imposed on imported coal.

Only two of the 62 mines examined in an independent report could match current international prices. Nineteen mines produced coal at more than 15 per cent above the price paid by BCC's biggest customers, the electricity generating companies.

Geological and other factors can lead to sharp variations in costs at individual pits from year to year. However, a planned fall in sales to the generators during 1992 and the weakening of BCC's industrial markets make further colliery closures a near certainty.

BCC sales face a severe challenge from plans by the electricity generating companies to switch to gas and imported coal for a large amount of their energy needs.

Since the government restructured British Coal's debts and ended subsidies last March, the corporation's financial health will depend upon the volume and price at which it can negotiate new long-term contracts with the generators.

Some industry commentators predict the loss of about 15 pits over the next three years. That implies the loss of more than 15,000 jobs.

Pressure is growing for the axe to fall in South Yorkshire, heartland of support for Arthur Scargill, life president of the National Union of Mineworkers. Six of the region's 12 pits produced coal at more than £2/gigajoule during 1989, according to McCloskey Coal Information.

The generators pay BCC £1.72/GJ for their coal, while imported coal, which in most cases is more attractive because of a lower sulphur content, costs as little as £1.10/GJ.

The Nottinghamshire coalfield, where the breakaway Union of Democratic Miners is based, also had four collieries producing coal at more than £2/GJ. Both coalfields are vulnerable to competition from imports shipped in by barge from the Humber to supply power stations on the River Trent.

British Coal has achieved productivity gains in most mines since 1989. Malcolm Edwards, commercial director, said recently that six BCC deep mines can match world prices.

Those world prices may in any case be misleading since only a tiny proportion of coal mined is traded internationally. Most of world production is sold to power companies under rollover contracts lasting ten or more years.

That has led to a renewed complaint by BCC to the European Commission claiming that producers in China, the United States and Colombia have been selling coal for less in Britain than they charge at home.

A report from McCloskey concludes that if the Conservatives win the next election and carry through their pledge to privatise BCC, "deep mined output will increasingly be concentrated in fewer large mines and most of these will be on the East Pennines coalfield".

The report adds: "Import penetration in coal supply will continue to increase under any Conservative government. UK prices will move to world market levels."

BCC will rely increasingly upon open cast mines, which provided 18.4 per cent of BCC's 95.2 million tonnes of sales in 1989-90, the report says.

However, if Labour wins the next election, says McCloskey, it would impose a series of measures, including import controls, designed to shore up the coal industry. A worker and management buy-out is "very possible," says the report.

Highest cost pits in 1989

Coalfield	No of mines	Mines over £2/GJ	Cost £/GJ
Central	6	Coventry	2.57
		Shirebroom	2.19
Scotland	1	None	
NE	8	None	
N Yorks	11	Askern	2.99
		Barnsley Mn	2.38
		Denby/Grg	2.14
		Grimethorpe	2.56
S Yorks	12	Barnburgh	2.71
		Dinnington	2.40
		Hatfield	2.71
		Maltby	2.02
		Markham Mn	2.21
		Treeton	2.05
Notts	16	Calverton	2.20
		Cotgrove	2.42
		Gedling	2.08
		Rufford	2.58
Lancs	3	Bickershaw	2.34
Staffs/ N Wales	5	Lea Hall	2.12
		Silverdale	2.02
	62	19	

Costs can vary radically from year to year. Source: McCloskey Coal Information

Northumbrian managing director resigns

River of no return: Michael Murden, the former Northumbrian managing director, at the Dee estuary near his home on the Wirral, Cheshire

By Martin Waller

MICHAEL Murden has resigned as managing director of Northumbrian Water after an apparent clash with Sir Michael Straker, the chairman, and is negotiating a pay-off that could reach £200,000.

His departure leaves just two executive directors at the company, floated off with the other nine regional water companies at the end of 1989, as he is not being replaced. David Cranston is taking over as chief executive while continuing as finance director.

A spokesman for Northumbrian Water said: "It really stems from a discussion he had with the chairman, as a result of which Michael thought it might be better if he left the company."

Mr Murden was formerly managing director of Cammell Laird and took part in the privatisation of VSEL, its parent company. That experience ended with his being brought in to Northumbrian two years ago in time for its own sell-off.

Northumbrian is stressing that his departure does not mean any change of policy for the company.

Mr Murden was on a three-year rolling contract at an annual salary of about £70,000. Terms of his compensation are still being worked out, but he cleared his desk before the New Year.

Mr Cranston said: "The managing director and the chairman of the board came to a mutual agreement that he ought to go. There's no disagreement about policy."

There is no plan to appoint another executive director. Earlier this week, Northumbrian appointed a director in charge of diversification into non-water businesses.

These include two industrial waste incineration plants, which the company wants to build at two of its existing sewage works in the North-east, subject to planning enquiries.

British Airways ends flights to Irish Republic after 44 years

Regrets: Sir Colin Marshall, chief executive of BA

By Bill Frost

BRITISH Airways has shied away from increased competition on routes to the Irish Republic by withdrawing all services after 44 years. Flights from Heathrow to Dublin, Cork and Shannon, and also the Birmingham to Dublin service, will stop on March 25.

The airline also announced that from June 1 services between London and Nassau in the Bahamas would be withdrawn.

BA blamed the cuts on increased operating costs and the continuing recession. The airline said that 47 jobs would go in Ireland, and about 16 in Nassau. Some staff would stay on to maintain a sales presence and others would be redeployed in the company.

Sir Colin Marshall, BA chief executive, said: "We regret having to withdraw from the Republic of Ireland after 44 years of service by BA and its predecessors. However, there will remain six carriers serving 14 routes linking Britain with Dublin." British Airways had faced fierce competition on its Irish routes.

Three other cuts are to be made: from March 31, BA will end its Gatwick to Amsterdam and Heathrow to Bergen flights. The Miami extension of the London-Washington-Miami Concorde service will be also be withdrawn.

The cuts came as BA announced an increased number of flights on other routes. From June 1 there are to be two flights a day on the Washington and Miami routes from London, and the frequency of services to Orlando in Florida will increase from three to four a week.

There are to be more flights to European destinations from March 31. Among the cities to which BA will increase the frequency of flights are Milan; Nice; Berlin and Leningrad.

Analysts at County NatWest, the broker, said BA's withdrawal was caused primarily by increased competition on the deregulated London to Dublin route. "BA were losing money on the route so it made sense for them to pull out but the whole episode raises questions about how BA will cope in a totally deregulated European market after 1992."

Advertising market still weak, says Daily Mail

By Colin Campbell

DAILY Mail and General Trust, owner of two national and several local newspapers, says trading this financial year has been "very mixed".

The weakness in the advertising market since September has spread and is worsening, the group said.

The newspaper group, 53.2 per cent controlled by Lord Rothermere and his family interests, yesterday reported trading profits of £64 million for the year ended September, compared with £56.9 million previously, and profits before tax and exceptional items of £50.3 million, compared with £53 million.

The year grew tougher as it went on, the group said.

There was a £6.1 million debit in exceptional items in 1990, compared with a exceptional credit of £60.3 million last time, which left pre-tax profits down from £113.3 million at £44.2 million.

The swing in the exceptional items figure is largely due to the £181.9 million credit in 1989 from the sale of 2.2 million Reuters shares and the £19.4 million charge against 1990 figures for reorganisation and redundancy costs.

Daily Mail is raising the final dividend from 75p to 83p a share, making 110p (100p) for the year. The A non-voting shares were unchanged at £40 each.

Turnover and trading profit from core newspaper and magazine interests advanced in 1990, and trading losses on other activities were trimmed from £3.5 million to £1.5 million.

The year's net interest charge was £31.6 million (£23.3 million).

The group said it was pleased with circulation figures from its newspapers so far this year, but admitted that the national advertising market was weak, notably the classified and employment sections.

WTA sells Portuguese pulp mill holding for £126m

By Wolfgang Münchau European Business Correspondent

WIGGINS Teape Appleton, the paper group demerged from BAT Industries last year, has announced the long-awaited sale of its 42.9 per cent stake in Soporcel, its Portuguese pulp mill, in a deal worth £126 million. The buyer is Stora Kopparbergs Bergslags, of Sweden, Europe's second largest paper group.

Wiggins, which has merged with Arjomari-Prioux, of France, disclosed its intention to sell the stake last September. The sale is part of a move by the company to switch away from the commodities paper business into higher value-added sections of the market, including specialist business stationery and paper for banknotes and securities.

The disposal comes as pulp prices are weakening because of overcapacity in the market. Analysts have estimated that the company's Portuguese interests would have at best broken even this year.

The price is below expectations, which ranged from £150 million to £200 million.

Stephen Weller, an analyst with UBS Phillips & Drew, the broker, said: "The price is somewhat lower than expected, but the pulp industry is going through a bad time. That part of the business is not making money at the moment."

WTA's exposure to the commodities part of the business will fall from 9 per cent to 6 per cent after the deal, which still requires approval by the Portuguese authorities. Gearing will fall from 25 per cent to 13 per cent.

Approval is likely since Stora is established in the Portuguese market through its Selbi mill.

Court clears Pan Am to sell London routes

From Philip Robinson in New York

PAN Am Corporation, the stricken American airline, has been given enough cash to continue flying at least until the end of the month.

By then it expects to receive approval from the British and American aviation authorities to sell its five Heathrow transatlantic routes to United Airlines for $290 million, which it claims will be sufficient to reorganise and emerge from bankruptcy.

Pan Am collapsed with debts of $2.5 billion this week, and sought protection against creditors under Chapter 11 of the American bankruptcy code. Executives told a bankruptcy judge that it was down to its last $27 million, which would have kept it going for only a few more days. Pan Am now has access to $150 million, with $100 million from Bankers Trust and the rest from United Airlines. These loans depended on Judge Cornelius Blackshear approving sale of the London routes.

Judge Blackshear gave the go-ahead after a lengthy court hearing. He said the confidence of the public, travel agents and credit card companies was crucial to enable the carrier to keep operating.

Pressure grows on Spurs directors to play ball

By Jonathan Prynn

FOR 90 minutes today, the beleaguered management and supporters of Tottenham Hotspur can stop thinking about the troubled affairs of the club's holding company. The derby clash with Arsenal, its north London rival, at White Hart Lane is one occasion when fans and executives will be shouting in agreement.

But the respite will be brief. As shareholders, supporters and regulators increase the pressure on Tottenham's directors, there is still no end in sight to the deepening corporate crisis at one of England's most glamorous and successful football clubs.

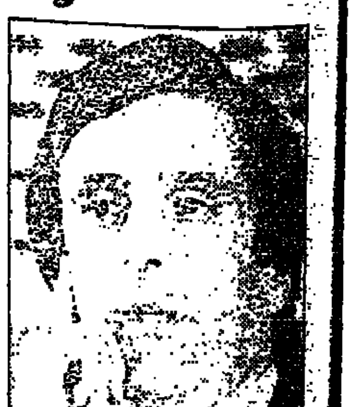
A second, smaller gathering of supporters after the game will serve to increase that pressure. The 300 members of the Tottenham Independent Supporters' Association are due to hold their first general meeting this afternoon to decide their next move. They are likely to agree to put forward a resolution of no confidence in the Tottenham board when the long-awaited Tottenham Hotspur plc annual meeting is convened. A demand for board representation will also probably be approved.

The association, half of whose members are also shareholders, accounts for only about 1 per cent of Tottenham's shares, but hopes to build this up by recruiting larger shareholders to its cause. Parties contacted include Guy Libby and Sun Life, with 3 per cent each, and Paul Bobroff, who has 11 per cent. Mr Bobroff, whose quoted property and engineering company, Markheath Securities, reported record profits yesterday, said he could only comment on one company at a time.

Official recognition for the association comes just before today's match when representatives will be granted a brief audience with directors of the plc, possibly including Douglas Alexiou, the acting chairman. But if Tottenham's record in providing shareholders with information is anything to go by, they will be disappointed.

Meanwhile, back in the boardroom, the company may finally be coming close to publishing its accounts for the year to end-May. The offical word is that publication is "imminent", although after waiting seven months shareholders will remain sceptical. But the threat of DTI legal action may have concentrated the minds of Tottenham's directors and its financial adviser, Brown Shipley.

The continuing Tottenham saga makes the news that Manchester United plans to join it on the stock market even more extraordinary. But like all league football clubs, United faces the problem of funding its stadium refurbishment, as required by the report into the Hillsborough disaster. One club considered to have managed its finances well is privately owned Arsenal. Tottenham supporters will be hoping the clubs' respective financial performances are not reflected on the field this afternoon.



Alexiou: meeting likely

هكذا من الإهمال

هكذا من الإصل

IEA prepares to peg oil price with extra stocks

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT and PETER GUILFORD

WITHIN 24 hours of war breaking out in the Gulf, the International Energy Agency will tell member states to put into effect contingency plans to keep oil prices down by releasing an extra 2.5 million barrels per day on to world markets.

The plans will first concentrate on running down stocks, which are well above IEA recommended minimum levels, but could also involve conservation measures, such as switching from oil-powered electricity to other fuels and cutting speed limits for motorists. Members have 15 days to put their contingency plans into effect.

The planned saving is equal to about 6 per cent of the daily use of oil in the industrial countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. The few OECD industrial countries that are not members of the IEA have also agreed to put make more supplies available.

Saudi Arabia is producing nearly 8 million barrels per day but only its northern oilfields are regarded as particularly at risk from war.

IEA members are required to hold minimum stocks equal to 90 days normal supply but have enough for about 96 days. Theoretically, the extra supplies called for by the IEA plan could therefore be provided for about three months from running down stocks. Some conservation measures such as lower car speed limits are likely to be brought in much earlier. Rationing is only a remote possibility.

Oil companies in Britain are required to hold stocks for only 76½ days, because of immediate access to North Sea production. The requirement is enshrined in the 1976 Energy Act, which also empowers the energy department to order the companies to run down stocks.

António Cardoso e Cunha, the EC's energy commissioner, has reassured consumers and the oil markets that the Community is "prepared for the worst" in the event of war, but has given warning that energy ministers could be called to Brussels within 48 hours of hostilities to discuss the release of stocks and longer-term fuel rationing.

Senhor Cardoso e Cunha said there was "cause for concern but not panic". Community stocks contained enough oil for 100 days' worth of consumption.

He said all Community countries had energy rationing plans, enabling them to cut consumption by 10 per cent, just short of the 11 per cent amount they import from Saudi Arabia.

Oil prices stabilised on world markets after the volatility earlier in the week. February Brent crude was marginally lower at $26.05 per barrel.

Both sterling and the dollar remained strong against the mark as the Gulf war fears were reinforced by worries over Soviet action in Lithuania. The pound opened at DM2.9185, but rose to DM2.9261 at one stage, only 0.8 per cent below its central rate in the exchange-rate mechanism, before relapsing to near its opening level.

Sterling still climbed back above the Danish krone in the ERM, making it only the third weakest currency of the nine.

● Salomon Brothers has launched 2 million warrants linked to the August price of Light Sweet crude oil.

VSEL cuts jobs at Trident yard

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

VSEL, the shipbuilding and engineering company, yesterday added to the new year job losses by telling its trade unions that almost 550 jobs are to go at its warship yard in Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, with more to follow.

The job losses at VSEL, Britain's premier warship manufacturer, are a direct result of the slump in defence industries worldwide after the political changes in eastern Europe, and the ending of the cold war. The prospect of a Gulf war is not altering the projected long-term fall in overall defence spending.

VSEL last August announced 550 redundancies, and warned then that a further 1,500 jobs would have to go in the financial year beginning this April. VSEL managers yesterday met leaders of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions and gave them details of the first wave of these losses at the yard, which is making the Trident nuclear submarine for the Navy.

The company told union leaders that 546 manual jobs would go between now and the end of July. The company will look for volunteers for redundancy among its 13,000 workforce, which comprises almost half the employees in the town.

VSEL management will also be meeting leaders of the unions representing white-collar employees.

The unions and employees fear that the company intends to cut the workforce by almost half, to about 7,000. Trident is due to be completed in 1995 or 1996, and it is not yet clear whether VSEL will be able to obtain further work.

Albert Martin to close factory

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

ALBERT Martin, the clothing manufacturer that supplies Marks and Spencer with underwear, leisurewear and sportswear, is closing its factory in Cudworth, South Yorkshire, with the loss of 611 jobs, 425 of them full time.

The factory has made losses for several years and Michael Kidd, the group's chairman, said there was no prospect of its achieving an adequate return soon. He could not say how much the closure and redundancies would cost the group.

Marks and Spencer is Albert Martin's largest customer but none of the M&S business will be affected. It is supplied from the group's Nottinghamshire factories. Albert Martin also supplies British Home Stores, Debenhams, Sears, Laura Ashley and Littlewoods.

Kidd: economic decision

Mr Kidd said the remainder of the group's 5,000 employees would not be affected. The results for 1990, which will be reported in April, are expected to show profits ahead of 1989's £1.61 million.

StormSeal jobs are axed by receivers

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

RECEIVERS endeavouring to save StormSeal, the Manchester double glazing group, have declared 1,623 redundancies at its branches around the country.

Allan Griffiths, of Grant Thornton, the accountant, said he would carry on operating the main business for four more weeks in the hope of securing a buyer. Should he fail, however, more jobs would be lost.

He was optimistic about selling Premier Profiles, the Doncaster, South Yorkshire, plastic extrusions manufacturer, as a going concern.

The StormSeal group, which went into receivership on January 4, had 3,000 staff nationwide and sales of £100 million last year. It was Britain's third largest double glazing specialist, but the market has been hit by the downturn in spending on household maintenance.

Yesterday's redundancies were heavily concentrated among sales and sales support staff. There were 877 redundancies at StormSeal itself and a further 746 at subsidiaries.

● Another 300 jobs are to be lost with the closure of the ITT Cannon factory at St Helens, Merseyside. The company will be concentrating operations at Basingstoke, Hampshire.

Credit jobs cut by Bank of Ireland

BANK of Ireland is making redundant 320 of the 440 staff employed at the British Credit Trust, its consumer credit business, by the end of April.

Only four of the 33 branches in England, Wales and Scotland will be retained to oversee the operation over a number of years.

The Dublin bank said in November it was considering whether to sell BCT.

A spokesman said the bank had negotiated with a number of interested parties over recent months without agreement. Consequently, the group had decided that BCT would continue in certain areas of business only and would run down its instalment credit operation.

Hong Kong comics king jailed over £2.2m fraud

From LULU YU IN HONG KONG

TONY WONG, Hong Kong's best-known artist and publisher of kung fu comics, has been jailed for four years for stealing HK$33 million (£2.2 million) from Jademan Holdings, the company he founded.

Mr Wong, aged 39, and his sister, Patricia, aged 27, were convicted on two counts of conspiring to defraud Jademan Holdings by making false loans to staff and to a securities firm.

The High Court heard that Mr Wong had used the stolen money partly to fight a take-

bank account and in nominee companies under his control.

Mr Wong founded a remarkable publishing business by creating lurid and violent tales about Chinese martial arts in the 1970s. His company, which was involved in publishing, newspapers, printing and securities trading, went public in 1986.

After the 1987 stock market crash, Mr Wong came under investigation by the Commercial Crime Bureau, and his dealings became steeped in controversy. In April 1989, the stock exchange suspended company as collateral for a HK$140 million loan from two fellow directors, resigned and gave up control temporarily.

Later, his company filed a writ demanding the return of a luxury apartment, a Rolls-Royce, a Porsche, a BMW, two Mercedes-Benz and 14 telephones and pagers, which he had bought on company expenses.

Last year, Mr Wong started fighting back. He was cleared of bribery charges involving two other people. With the help of Ms Sally Aw, of the

Markheath rises 52%

ANTHONY PHELPS

Strategic move: Paul Bobroff turned to Camford

By JONATHAN PRYNN

MARKHEATH Securities, the property company that swallowed Camford Engineering, the automotive components maker, in a hostile £70 million takeover bid last year, has reported a 52 per cent advance in pre-tax profits to £6.6 million for the six months to end-September.

The interim figures include a four-and-a-half month contribution from Camford, which accounted for £52 million of the £74.5 million turnover for the half year. Turnover for the first half last year was £14 million.

However, earnings per share fell by 22 per cent to 3.59p because of a £45 million share issue. The interim dividend is maintained at 2p.

Income from investment properties rose 54 per cent to £1.12 million, but did not match the fall in profits from property development, said Paul Bobroff, chief executive. Property development profits are thought to have fallen from more than £2 million in 1989 to about £1 million last year. The company has only three small development projects in progress.

The company has received planning permission to develop a 600,000 sq ft site in Stevenage formerly owned by Camford. Markheath has not decided how to realise value from the site, which Camford valued at £25.5 million during the bid.

Peter Callaghan, Camford's executive deputy chairman, said the subsidiary had performed "bang in line" with the £8 million profit forecast made during the takeover.

Interest costs for the period were £5.5 million and borrowings were about 100 per cent of year-end net assets. Markheath shares rose 4p to 30p.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

South Western and Seeboard on target

INTERIM results from two of the 12 electricity distributors most heavily biased towards the domestic consumer demonstrate the extreme seasonality of those businesses, although both are on course for profits and dividends forecast in the prospectus last year.

Seeboard scraped to a £900,000 pre-tax profit in the half-year to end-September, although George Squair, chairman and chief executive, said electricity distributed was 1.2 per cent higher than in the same period the previous year, despite the difficult economic climate. South Western made £3.7 million pre-tax.

Zetters ahead at halfway

ZETTERS Group, the football pools company, lifted pre-tax profits from £364,000 to £372,000 in the six months to end-September despite a slip in turnover from £12 million to £11.4 million. Earnings were 3.4p (3.3p). The interim dividend is maintained at 1.75p.

BBB Design goes into red

SHARES in BBB Design Group, USM graphic design and computer services consultant, lost 6p to 16p after an interim pre-tax loss of £56,000 to end-October (£321,000 profit). Again, there is no interim dividend. Loss per share was 0.45p (2.52p earnings).

RMT's losses deepen

PRE-TAX losses have grown at RMT Group, the computer equipment distribution company formerly known as Spectrum Group, from £42,000 to £1.35 million in the year to end-June, affected by exceptional costs. But the company is now trading profitably, says Kenneth Vere Nicoll, the chairman and chief executive.

Turnover grew 9 per cent to £11.9 million. Loss before interest and exceptional charges was £466,000 (£426,000 profit). Rationalisation resulted in an exceptional charge of £444,000 and extraordinary losses of £265,000. Loss per share was 7.04p (0.4p loss). Again, there is no dividend.

Shares fall on Embassy loss

EMBASSY Property Group shares fell 5p to 18p as the company unveiled interim pre-tax losses of £875,000 in the six months to September (£854,000 profit). The USM-quoted shares have fallen 60 per cent in the last five days. There is no interim dividend (2p).

LIT sells 40% Jersey stake

LIT Holdings, the specialist financial services group, has sold its 40 per cent stake in Jersey General Group Holdings, an offshore investment management company, to two members of JGGH management, for an initial £500,000. A further £250,000 may also be paid.

SOUTH WESTERN ELECTRICITY plc

INTERIM RESULTS

The results for the half year are entirely as foreshadowed in the Prospectus and the Company remains soundly on track towards the achievement of its Prospectus profit and dividend forecast for the full year. There was a current cost loss before tax for the half year of £9.2 million (a profit of £3.7 million on an historical cost basis).

With a large proportion of the business deriving from domestic electricity sales, the seasonality of the financial performance is accentuated. However, I believe the predominantly domestic customer base makes the Company less vulnerable to economic fluctuations than in many other parts of the country and I look forward to our future with confidence.

William Nicol
Chairman

Results for the six months ended 30 September 1990 were:-

	Current Cost (Unaudited) £m	Historical Cost (Unaudited) £m
TURNOVER	**333.6**	**333.6**
OPERATING (LOSS)/PROFIT	(9.5)	4.4
(LOSS)/PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION	**(9.2)**	**3.7**
Taxation	(0.4)	(0.4)
(LOSS)/PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES AFTER TAXATION	**(9.6)**	**3.3**
Extraordinary Items	(1.5)	(1.5)
(LOSS)/PROFIT ATTRIBUTABLE TO SHAREHOLDERS	(11.1)	1.8

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

The **Distribution** business was profitable for the half year and benefited from an increase in electricity unit throughput of 1.2% on the first six months of the previous year. 7.4% of total throughput represented sales via second tier licensees.

As predicted, the **Supply** business made a loss during the period. This was due primarily to the seasonality of its sales and the provisions of the electricity purchase contracts. The loss of sales by the Supply business to second tier licensees has not had a material impact on the profitability of the business.

Adverse market conditions for **Appliance Retailing** have inevitably affected sales but good progress has been made in streamlining this activity. A third superstore has been opened on the outskirts of Bristol and margins have also improved, illustrating the progress of our plans to restore the business to profitability.

In **Generation,** as indicated in the Prospectus, the Company is considering participation in a number of schemes, particularly the development of a 1725 megawatt combined cycle gas turbine facility on Teesside. South Western Electricity has an option to take a shareholding of approximately 7.7% in the joint venture.

Dividend and Prospects. As explained in the Prospectus, no interim dividend is proposed. The Directors expect to recommend the payment in October 1991 of a single (final) dividend for the year ending 31 March 1991 of 10.57 pence net per ordinary share (approximately £13.0 million in aggregate).
In the absence of unforeseen circumstances, the Company is confident that it will achieve its full year profit and dividend forecast as outlined in the Prospectus.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. **Basis of Preparation** The interim accounts, which are unaudited, for the six months ended 30 September 1990 have been prepared on the basis of the accounting policies set out in the Prospectus dated 21 November 1990 containing Listing Particulars of South Western Electricity plc and are consistent with the accounting policies adopted for the year ended 31 March 1990.
Results for the six months ended 30 September 1989 have not been presented. The Directors believe that comparison with this prior period would not be meaningful in view of changes during the current year in the commercial and contractual environment of the Company and in its capital structure and regulatory system. The financial information contained in this interim statement does not amount to full accounts within the meaning of Section 240 of the Companies Act 1985.

2. **Investment Income** Included within the (loss)/profit before taxation is £2.9 million in respect of the interim dividend (including associated tax credit) receivable from The National Grid Holding plc for the period ended 30 September 1990.

3. **Interest Charge** The (loss)/profit before tax is net of an interest charge for the period of £3.6 million. The charge reflects the borrowings put in place in order to operate within the new energy purchasing arrangements. The interest charge will be higher in the second half of the year because of the injection in October 1990 of £80 million by way of Government debt as part of the privatisation programme.

4. **Taxation** Taxation for the six months ended 30 September 1990 has been provided on the basis of the estimated effective tax rate for the year ending 31 March 1991.

5. **Extraordinary Items** Extraordinary items comprise privatisation costs incurred in the half year ended 30 September 1990.

6. **Reconciliation of Current Cost Accounts (CCA) to Historical Cost Accounts (HCA)** The Company's Distribution business is capital intensive: typically, its fixed assets represent more than 80% of the total CCA assets employed, with long average asset lives being reflected in the policy of depreciating them over 40 years. To base the depreciation charge on the original cost of these assets is therefore considered to overstate the real profitability of the Company so that the adjustment to HCA depreciation is the predominant reconciling difference between the CCA and HCA accounts as can be seen in the following statement.

	Six months to 30 Sept 1990 (Unaudited) £m
CCA loss on ordinary activities before taxation	(9.2)
Adjustments:	
Depreciation	11.4
Cost of sales	0.2
Monetary working capital	2.3
Gearing	(1.0)
HCA profit on ordinary activities before taxation	3.7

7. **Pro Forma Earnings**

	Current Cost	Historical Cost
Pro forma loss on ordinary activities after taxation	£(12.7)m	£(1.1)m
Pro forma loss per ordinary share	(10.3)p	(0.9)p

Pro forma loss per ordinary share has been calculated by dividing pro forma loss after taxation by 123.1 million ordinary shares in issue immediately following flotation as if they had been in issue since 1 April 1990.
Pro forma loss on ordinary activities after taxation has been calculated by increasing the interest charge by £4.9 million (less £0.5 million tax credit) and, for current cost accounts only, increasing the gearing adjustment by £1.3 million on the basis that the new capital structure had been in place since 1 April 1990.
Actual earnings per ordinary share have not been presented: the number of shares in issue during the six months ended 30 September 1990 and the actual losses for that period are not considered to be representative of the Company's position following implementation of the new capital structure.

SWEB

Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add these prices to your running total for the week and check this against the weekly dividend figure on this page. If it matches this figure, you have won outright or a share of the total weekly prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Liberty	Drapery,Stores	
2	Nat Aust Bk	Banks,Discount	
3	Diploma	Industrials A-D	
4	Suter	Industrials S-Z	
5	Helical Bar	Property	
6	Abbott Mead	Paper,Print,Adv	
7	Petrocon	Oil,Gas	
8	Wessex Water	Water	
9	Bibby (J)	Industrials A-D	
10	Steetley	Building,Roads	
11	Westerly	Industrials S-Z	
12	Fobel	Industrials E-K	
13	Aus New Z	Banks,Discount	
14	ERF	Motors,Aircraft	
15	Arncliffe	Building,Roads	
16	Eurotunnel Units	Transport	
17	Oil Search	Oil,Gas	
18	Markheath	Property	
19	Usher Walker	Paper,Print,Adv	
20	THORN EMI (aa)	Electricals	
21	Costain	Building,Roads	
22	Mitie Gp	Industrials L-R	
23	Argyll (aa)	Foods	
24	Warner Howard	Industrials S-Z	
25	Mersey Docks	Transport	
26	Micro Focus	Electricals	
27	Mang Bronze	Industrials L-R	
28	Bank Of Ireland	Banks,Discount	
29	Nthn Foods (aa)	Foods	
30	Anglian Water	Water	
31	Lopex	Paper,Print,Adv	
32	Speyhawk	Property	
33	Whitbread 'A' (aa)	Breweries	
34	Honda Motor	Motors,Aircraft	
35	Westpac	Banks,Discount	
36	Banks (Sidney C)	Foods	
37	AAF Inv	Industrials A-D	
38	Br Petroleum (aa)	Oil,Gas	
39	Br Land (aa)	Property	
40	Tate & Lyle	Foods	
41	Reed Int (aa)	Newspapers,Pub	
42	Welsh Water	Water	
43	Pifco	Electricals	
44	Kingfisher (aa)	Drapery,Stores	
© Times Newspapers Ltd.		Daily Total	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in today's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

The £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize was won yesterday by Mrs Edith Maidment, of Trowbridge, Wiltshire.

BRITISH FUNDS

1990/91 High	Low	Stock		Price	Ch'ge	Int only yld%	Gross Red yld%
SHORTS (Under Five Years)							
97½	89⅜	Treas	3% 1991	97¼	..	3.07	10.479
98⅛	90⅝	Fund	5¾% 1987-91	98⅝	..	5.83	12.032
97	87⅝	Treas	8% 1991	96⅝	..	8.25	11.857
99⅜	94½	Treas C	10% 1991	99	● ..	10.0	12.179
99⅝	89⅝	Exch	11% 1991	99⅝	..	11.0	11.988
99¾	92½	Treas	11¾% 1991	95¾		..	—
93	82⅝	Treas	3% 1992	91⅝	..	3.2	9.447
96⅝	85⅜	Treas	8% 1992	96⅜	..	8.3	11.450
99⅝	90⅜	Treas	10% 1992	98⅝	..	10.1	11.772
99⅛	88⅜	Treas	C10¼% 1992	98⅝	..	10.6	11.619
101⅜	92	Exch	12¼% 1992	100⅞	-⅛	12.1	11.857
101⅝	93½	Treas	12¼% 1992	101	● ..	12.6	11.753
103⅛	101⅝	Exch	13½% 1992	103	..	13.1	11.488
92½	81½	Fund	6% 1993	89⅝	-⅛	6.6	10.314
94⅝	86⅝	Treas	8¼% 1993	94½	..	8.7	11.327
93½	87	Treas	12% 1993	97⅝	..	10.2	11.281
103⅜	93⅝	Treas	12½% 1993	103	● ..	12.1	11.169
107⅝	94	Treas	13¾% 1993	106⅛	..	12.9	11.182
94	84⅝	Treas	8½% 1994	93⅝	● ..	9.0	11.038
94⅝	82⅝	Treas	9% 1994	94⅝	..	9.5	10.868
98⅝	84	Treas	10% 1994	97⅝	..	10.2	10.875
105	94⅝	Exch	12½% 1994	104⅝	..	11.9	10.933
107⅝	94⅝	Exch	13½% 1994	106⅝	..	12.6	10.893
110⅝	99⅝	Treas	14½% 1994	109⅝	..	13.2	10.884
87	72⅝	Gas	3% 1990-95	83⅝	+⅛	4.0	10.785
98⅝	88	Exch	10¼% 1995	97⅝	● ..	10.4	10.851
104⅝	94⅝	Treas	12% 1995	103⅝	● ..	11.5	10.850
107⅝	94⅝	Treas	12¾% 1995	107⅝	..	11.9	10.819
FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS							
94	82⅝	Treas	9% 1992-96	93⅝	..	9.6	10.818
97⅝	83⅝	Conv	10% 1996	97	..	10.3	10.881
110⅝	98	Exch	13¼% 1996	109⅝	..	12.1	10.911
112⅝	100⅝	Treas	14% 1996	111⅝	●+⅛	12.6	11.080
119⅝	102⅝	Treas	15¼% 1996	116⅝	..	13.0	10.995
91⅛	79⅝	Treas	8¾% 1997	91	+⅛	9.6	10.656
99	87⅝	Exch	10½% 1997	98⅝	+⅛	10.6	10.758
111⅝	98⅝	Treas	13¼% 1997	110⅝	● ..	12.0	10.888
120⅝	105⅝	Exch	15% 1997	118⅝	+⅛	12.6	10.981
82⅝	66	Treas	6¾% 1995-98	82⅝	..	8.1	10.210
95⅝	83⅝	Exch	9¾% 1998	95⅝	●+⅛	10.2	10.714
107⅝	88⅝	Exch	12% 1998	106⅝	+⅛	11.3	10.803
128	107⅝	Treas	15½% 1998	123⅝	+⅛	12.5	10.870
95	82	Treas	9½% 1999	94⅝	● ..	10.0	10.640
98	81⅝	Conv	10¼% 1999	97⅝	..	10.5	10.882
99⅝	84⅝	Treas	10½% 1999	99	..	10.6	10.873
106⅝	94⅝	Exch	12¼% 1999	107⅝	..	11.3	10.808
91⅝	78⅝	Conv	9% 2000	91⅝	..	9.8	10.470
114⅝	98⅝	Treas	13% 2000	112⅝	● ..	11.5	10.853
97⅝	82⅝	Treas	10% 2001	98⅝	..	10.3	10.594
118⅝	97⅝	Treas	14% 1998-01	115	..	12.1	10.959
96⅝	81⅝	Treas	9¾% 2002	94⅝	..	10.3	10.571
98⅝	82⅝	Treas	10% 2003	96⅝	..	10.3	10.509
118⅝	102	Treas	13¾% 2000-03	116⅝	● ..	11.8	10.934
58⅝	45⅝	Fund	3½% 1999-04	54⅝	● ..	6.3	9.493
95⅝	79⅝	Conv	9½% 2004	93	-⅛	10.2	10.442
105⅝	90⅝	Treas	11½% 2001-04	104⅝	..	11.0	10.786
95⅝	79⅝	Conv	9½% 2005	93	-⅛	10.2	10.428
116⅝	95⅝	Treas	12½% 2003-05	113⅝	-⅛	11.0	10.565
OVER FIFTEEN YEARS							
84¼	69⅜	Treas	8% 2002-06	81⅞	-⅛	9.8	10.393
89¾	73⅜	Treas	8½% 2007	86⅜	●-⅛	9.8	10.238
111	93⅜	Treas	11¾% 2003-07	109	● ..	10.8	10.531
93⅜	77⅜	Treas	9% 2008	90⅜	..	9.9	10.123
125	105⅜	Treas	13½% 2004-08	120⅜	..	11.1	10.352
85⅜	69⅜	Treas	8% 2009	81⅜	..	9.7	10.154
94	77⅜	Conv	9% 2011	90⅜	● ..	9.9	10.129
63⅜	50⅜	Treas	5½% 2008-12	60⅜	..	9.1	10.041
82⅜	67⅜	Treas	7¾% 2012-15	78⅜	●-⅛	9.8	10.134
121⅜	99⅜	Exch	12% 2013-17	118⅜	..	10.3	10.138
UNDATED							
25⅜	20⅜	Consols	2½%	24⅜	..	..	—
61⅜	54⅜	Conv	3½%	58⅜	..	6.0	—
41	33⅜	Consols	4%	38⅜	● ..	..	—
25⅜	20⅜	Treas	2½%	24⅜	..	..	—
32⅜	22⅜	Treas	3%	28	..	..	—
36⅜	29⅜	War Ln	3½%	34⅜	..	..	—
INDEX-LINKED							
126⅜	110	Treas IL	2% 1992	126⅜			
119⅜	103⅜	Treas IL	2% 1994	116⅜	+⅛		
171⅜	150⅜	Treas IL	2% 1996	170⅜	+⅛		
140⅜	122⅜	Treas IL	2½% 2001	133⅜			
138⅜	119⅜	Treas IL	2½% 2003	134⅜			
137⅜	122	Treas IL	2% 2006	135⅜	●		
127	113⅜	Treas IL	2½% 2009	125			
131⅜	117⅜	Treas IL	2½% 2011	129⅜			
108⅜	97⅜	Treas IL	2½% 2013	106⅜	●		
116⅜	105⅜	Treas IL	2½% 2016	114⅜	●		
112⅜	102⅜	Treas IL	2½% 2020	110⅜	●		
95⅜	83	Treas IL	2½% 2024	92⅜	●		

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1990/91 High	Low	Company	Price Bid	Offer	Ch'nge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
234	173	Abbey National (aa)	218	230	-4	8.4	3.8	11.9
282	126	Allied Irish	128	137	+1			
53	60	Ansbacher (Henry)	57	62		3.5	5.5	17.3
303	121	Aus New Z	123	127●	+4	–	–	–
17⅛	8⅛	Banamerica	12⅝		-⅛	–	–	–
286	120	Bank of Ireland	142	148	+1	–b	–	–
19⅛	19⅛	Bank Leumi Israel	18	21	..			
350	330¼	Bank Leumi UK	340	360	–	20.0	5.7	5.9
129¼	100	Bank Of Scotland	114	116	-2	6.8	5.9	8.1
54	39	Bank Of Wales	38	45	–	3.7	8.8	19.2
428	250	Barclays (aa)	342	345	-6	27.4	8.0	15.2
22	10	Benchmark	10	13	+2	1.0	8.3	
335	195	Brown Shipley	190	200●	–	10.7	5.5	6.3
102	13	Candela	12	14	-2	–●		1.6
456	285	Cater Allen	350	387	–	33.5	8.5	9.9
68	50	Cattles	54	58 r	+1	4.9	8.9	8.4
177	25	Chancery	40	47	–	–	–	1.0
21⅛	5⅛	Chase Manhattan	5⅛		+⅛	–	–	–
13⅛	6⅛	Citicorp	8⅛		-⅛	–	–	–
290	200	Close Bros	245	255	–	10.7	4.3	12.9
120¼	71	Commerzbank	79¼		+⅛	..	–	–
313¼	183¼	Deutsche Bank	200¼		-2			
375	158	First Nat Fin	158	175	-1	17.3	10.1	9.4
25	14	GPG	21	25	–	0.3a	1.3	
375	262	Gerrard Nat	309	315	–	39.3	5.4	14.0
154	70	Guinness Mahon	68	72●	..	1.9	2.7	–
379	195	Hambros	215	220●	-6	15.9	7.3	7.0
58⅛	29	HK Shanghai	29⅛	31⅛	+⅛			
479	373	Joseph (Leopold)	385	390	–	21.1	5.6	11.7
150	105	King & Shaxson	120	125	–	13.7	11.1	10.7
427	252	Kleinwort Benson	265	270	–	21.3	7.9	6.8
316	222	Lloyds (aa)	284	287	-3	18.7	6.5	
56	44	Lon Scot Fi	51	54	–	3.4	6.4	11.1
401	167	Midland (aa)	167	170	-6	24.0	14.2	–
328	233	Nat Aust Bk	215	219●	+6			
338	227	Nat West (aa)	263	265	-6	23.3	8.8	15.2
426	302	Provident	326	402	–	29.7	7.2	6.7
51	25	Rea Bros	22	27	–	0.7	2.8	12.0
224	119	Ryl Bk Scot (aa)	151	154●	-2	11.2	7.3	7.2
902	613	Schroders	675	700	–	22.2	3.2	9.4
815	212	Stand Chart (aa)	210	215	-13	46.7	21.9	–
147	114	TSB (aa)	130	131	-1¼	8.5	6.5	9.7
611	469	Union Disc	565	575	-1	44.0	7.7	30.8
525	284	Warburg SG	316	325	-2	20.0	6.2	5.6
179	50	Do 6% 'A'	110	113	-1	8.0	7.1	–
50¼	21⅛	Wells Fargo	27		●+⅛	–	–	–
279	128	Westpac	130	135●	+3	–	–	–
420	290	Wintrust	285	295	–	11.8	4.0	7.8

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Cautious end to account

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began December 31. Dealings ended yesterday. §Contango day January 14. Settlement day January 21. §Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (aa) denotes Alpha Stocks.

BREWERIES

1990/91 High	Low	Company	Price Bid	Offer	Ch'nge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
520	408	Allied-Lyons (aa)	478	481●	+1	23.4	4.9	10.1
11⅛	698	Bass (aa)	10⅛	10⅛●	..	43.2	4.1	10.6
170	129	Boddington	138	142	-1	7.2	5.1	14.7
206	161	Bulmer (H P)	173	182●	..	10.6	6.0	13.4
227	119	Burtonwood Brew	115	122●	-1	5.3	4.5	11.1
400	290	Clark (Matthew)	360	370	–	18.0	4.9	12.7
286	115	Devenish (JA)	143	150●	+2	7.1	4.8	9.0
115	46	Fosters Brewing Gp	53	55	–			
681	521	Grand Met (aa)	668	671	+1	27.2	4.1	10.5
369	285	Greenall Wht	306	310●	..	13.3	4.3	8.1
420	313	Greene King	400	408●	..	13.8	3.4	14.4
823	630	Guinness (aa)	760	764	-3	21.7	2.8	16.1
955	880	Hardys & Hansons	883	903	–	44.7	5.0	10.9
259	182	Highland Dist	238	246	-1	6.4	2.6	18.4
480	375	Marstons	423	433	..	15.3	3.6	11.1
222	160	Marston Thompson	190	195●	..	5.6	2.9	15.7
800	245	Morland	240	255●	..	8.6	3.4	12.5
738	463	SA Breweries	570	585				
392	278	Scot & New (aa)	352	355●	-3	18.2	5.1	12.7
329	191	Vaux Group	195	202●	..	11.7	5.9	9.6
470	380	Whitbread 'A' (aa)	438	441	+2	20.4	4.6	12.3
14⅛	11⅛	Do 'B'	13	14		20.4	1.5	37.7
430	339	Wolvrhmptn & D	407	415●	..	12.4	3.0	11.4
465	405	Young 'A'	395	415	–	16.0	4.0	19.2

BUILDING, ROADS

1990/91 High	Low	Company	Price Bid	Offer	Ch'nge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
130	50	Abbey	50	60	..	–●		
504	180	Amec	198	203	+2	13.0	6.5	5.9
732	17	Anglia Sec	18	22	–			
155	78	Arncliffe	75	90	+5	9.0	10.8	2.1
531	186	Atwoods	183	189 s	-3	6.3	3.4	18.2
259	190	BPB Ind (aa)	182	186●	-3	15.0	8.2	7.9
144	69	Baggeridge Brick	68	75●	-2	4.2	5.8	8.5
71	25	Bailey (Ben) Constr	30	35	+2	2.5	7.6	3.4
185	93	Bardon Group	90	95	-1	5.1	5.5	9.9
215	88	Barratt Devs	93	97	+1	12.0	12.8	10.0
178	82	Beazer PLC (aa)	80	93	-2	10.3	11.2	5.3
217	144	Bellway	203	207●	..	14.7	7.2	10.0
41	9	Bellwinch	9	12	..			
258	142	Berkeley Gp	229	232●	..	6.0	2.6	7.7
142	105	Bett Bros	102	112●	..	8.5	7.9	8.1
155	87	Blockleys	95	105	–	6.4	6.4	7.1
271	177	Blue Circle (aa)	201	205	-1	15.0	7.4	8.9
468	423	Boot (Henry)	440	450	–	29.3	6.6	10.2
125	73	Breedon PLC	73	83	–	6.0	7.7	8.8
165	68	Br Dredging	95	100	-2	8.3	9.5	7.0
119	72	Bryant	90	92	-1	8.4	7.8	14.2
115	71	CALA	78	83	–	4.5	5.6	10.6
286	169	CRH	198	202	–	7.3	3.7	
83	37	Cambrood Robey	35	45	-2	3.7	9.3	86.1
178	100	Calray	173	183	–	11.0	6.2	8.6
122	35	Conder Grp	33	43	-2	1.1	2.9	2.3
170	18	Copson PLC	18	23	–	1.3	6.2	75.0
315	150	Costain	155	159	+3	16.3	10.4	7.7
231	62	Countryside	78	85	+1	5.5	6.7	
217	60	Crest Nicholson	85	88	–	10.2	11.7	3.1
103	50	Crosby James	62	72	-1	3.0	4.5	2.8
193	102	Dean & Bowes	96	105	–	8.0	7.8	7.8
433	265	Douglas (RM)	265	305●	..	14.0	4.7	6.1
46⅛	30	Edmond Hldgs	30	30⅛	–	2.5	8.3	5.5
75	48	Erith	48	53	–	5.2	10.2	11.8
151	77	Everad	86	88	–	7.5	8.8	5.4
58	2	Finlan Gp	2	3	–	2.9		
84	59	Galliford	72	74	-1	5.7	7.8	9.0
195	80	Gibbs & Dandy Ord	80	100	+10	2.7e	3.0	59.2
768	563	Gleeson (MJ)	575	600●	..	14.4	2.4	7.9
200	78	Graham Wood	75	85●	..	10.7	13.4	2.4
162	49	Harrison Ind	45	52	–	8.5	17.3	3.2
124	65	Hewden-Stuart	72	74	-1	3.8	5.2	5.3
285	204	Heywood Williams	243	247	–	16.7	6.8	7.5
453	262	Higgs & Hill	265	272	–	28.8	10.7	5.1
75	33	How Gp	32	35	–	4.6	14.1	6.8
37	18	Howard Hldgs	16	19	–	2.0	11.1	8.5
152	77	Ibstock Johnsen	93	95	-1	8.0	8.5	4.9
125	51	Jarvis	55	60	..	3.3	5.7	5.6
325	208	Laing (J)	253	257	–	17.3	6.8	7.2
56	26	Lawrence (Walter)	24	28	–	10.0	38.5	1.7
66	43	Liley	43	45	–	3.3	7.5	4.6
254	103	Lovell (YJ)	113	117	-8	11.9	10.3	4.6
208	146	Manders	145	148	..	9.1	6.2	15.3
150	82	Marley	95	98	–	8.5	8.8	8.4
134	70	Marshalls	81	85	–	6.7	8.1	5.7
92	52	Maunders (J)	78	83	–	6.6	8.1	5.6
365	228	McAlpine (Alfred)	232	237	..	21.5	9.1	12.6
140	30	McCarthy & S	37	40●	..	1.3	3.3	
440	295	Meyer Int	387	370●	+3	22.0	6.0	8.9
387	237	Mowlem (John)	256	261	+7	28.0	10.8	5.9
115	41	NSM	39	42	–	4.7	11.5	5.6
155	123	Newman Tonks	128	130	–	12.4	9.6	7.4
208	133	Persimmon	193	197	-3	9.1	4.7	7.8
110	42	Phoenix Timber	40	43●	..	1.7	4.0	16.2
14	9⅛	Pochins	9⅛	10⅛	–	32.0	3.2	5.9
186	114	Prowting	175	180	–	6.7	3.8	10.8
745	470	RMC Gp (aa)	615	622	+3	24.8	4.0	9.1
114	77	Raine Ind	92	94	–	7.7	8.3	6.7
641	451	Redland (aa)	535	540	+2	32.1	6.0	9.4
159	103	Rugby Group	138	142	–	8.8	6.1	7.0
112	69	Sharpe & Fisher	82	87	+2	5.3	6.2	8.3
143	108	Sheffield Insl	105	110	-2	8.5	8.3	8.5
182	153	Smart (J)	160	165	+2	9.6	5.9	6.7
24	13⅛	Sarmen	16⅛	18	–			
455	313	Steetley	328	333	+3	18.7	5.6	8.4
289	186	Tarmac (aa)	220	225	-1	15.0	6.7	7.0
111	79	Tay Homes	104	109	–	6.4	6.0	4.1
325	188	Taylor Woodrow (aa)	200	205	+1	12.2	6.0	8.2
685	407⅛	Tilbury Group	500	520	–	43.3	8.5	5.6
217	150	Travis Perkins	188	198	–	10.7	5.5	11.7
111	48	Try Group	45	50	–	8.0	16.7	2.6
325	138	Turriff	133	143	-1	20.0	14.5	3.3
172	70	Vibroplant	68	72	-2	4.8	6.9	3.4
355	115	Ward Group	125	140	..	9.8	7.2	3.7
85	48	Ward Hldgs	70	75	..	3.5	4.8	10.5
447	315	Watts Blake	380	395	-5	11.6	3.0	13.6
91	7	Wiggins	8	12	–	–I		
346	240	Wilson Bowden	341	345	–	10.4	3.0	8.5
181	141	Wilson (Connolly)	161	165	–	4.7	2.9	9.1
268	163	Wimpey G (aa)	193	197	-1	14.0	7.2	6.8
105	38	YRM	44	48	–	6.7	14.3	3.5

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

1990/91 High	Low	Company	Price Bid	Offer	Ch'nge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
173	108	Allied Colloids	120	123	–	4.3	3.5	11.8
401	245	Amersham	305	310	–	15.7	5.1	16.8
61	20⅛	Anglo Utd	32	33⅛	-⅛	1.9	5.8	8.0
185	131	BTP	163	167●	..	10.7	6.5	12.3
118⅛	66⅛	Bayer DM50	78⅛		+1⅛			
194	132	Blagden	132	135	–	12.5	9.3	8.0
167	121	Brent Chems	123	127	+3	9.3	7.4	10.0
540	35	Card Gp	46	50	–	3.2	6.7	8.0
239	88	Coming (W)	93	100	+1	9.7	10.0	4.5
199	138	Croda	158	161	+1	14.7	9.2	9.0
230	157	Ellis & Everard	168	175	–	9.3	5.4	9.8
30	15	European Colour	14	15⅛	–	0.9	6.0	13.5

1990/91 High	Low	Company	Price Bid	Offer	Ch'nge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
131	67	EMC	65	68	–	1.3	1.9	64.4
242	178	Electrocomponents	202	208	–	8.1	4.0	11.8
93	63	Elec Data Process	70	78	–	4.0	5.4	4.3
110	20	Electron House	17	22	-3	7.8b	39.0	2.4
86	31	Emess	30	33	–	4.7	14.7	3.7
331	178	Eurotherm	191	200	–	10.0	5.1	7.6
93	44	FKI (aa)	43	45●	..	5.3	12.0	4.2
165	143	Farnell Elect	161	164	+1	6.9	4.2	11.5
46	11	Ferranti (aa)	13	15	-⅛	–●	–	–
100	8	Ferrari Hldgs	7	9	–	–	..	1.5
500	50	First Tech	43	65	–	4.0	7.3	1.9
51	10	Forward Tech	11	13	–			2.6
244	167	GEC (aa)	167	170●	-3	12.3	7.3	8.4
715	460	Harland Simon	450	470●	-10	8.7	1.9	12.2
485	243	Hoskyns Gp	343	353●	+1	2.2	0.9	26.8
235	160	Jones Stroud	155	175	-8	10.7	6.5	7.8
39	22	Kenroy	20	24	–	–	–	–
145	120	Kode	120	130	–	10.0	8.0	–
340	270	Lec Refrigeration	260	280	–	19.3	7.1	32.3
63	43	Leica	50	54●	..	1.3	2.5	11.3
102	74	Life Sciences	86	90	–	3.3	3.8	14.1
358	141	Logica	145	163	–	4.5	3.0	15.6
313	228	Macro 4	225	240	-2	11.9	5.1	11.1
182	146	Memec	144	152	–	8.2	5.5	9.5
277	134	Microfilm Repro	139	137 s	–	4.0	3.0	14.6
643	448	Micro Focus	715	730	+5	–	–	19.3
139	105	Microgen	115	122	–	8.9	7.5	11.2
12	3⅛	Millicom	3⅛		-⅛			
377	71	Misys	87	75	-2	7.0	8.9	3.1
183	51	Mitel	32		–	–	–	–
28⅛	8⅛	Molex	12⅛		+⅛	–	–	–
112	72	Molynx	68	75	–	4.7	6.5	5.5
78	34	Multitone Elect	60	65●	..	2.3	3.7	15.9
68	52	Murray Elctr	51	54	–	–	–	–
53⅛	34⅛	Mynex	35⅛		●+⅛	–	–	–
180	88	Newmark (Louis)	70	80	–	–	–	–
152	40	Northamber	38	43	–	3.3	8.0	3.0
25	10	Oceonics	9	12	–			
329	198	Oxford Instruments	248	255	–	5.4	2.1	13.7
280	133	P-E International	130	135	–	7.9	5.9	6.3
219	84	P & P	82	88	–	5.7	6.6	4.0
91	45	Peek	43	45	–	4.5	10.0	6.2
105	69	Philips Fin 5¾%	56	69	+3	575b	9.1	–
15⅛	5⅛	Philips Lamps N/V	6⅛		–			
267	205	Pifco	225	235	+3	9.7	4.2	8.0
235	160	Do 'A' Ltd Voting	191	201	+1	9.7	4.9	7.5
108	63	Pressac	100	105	–	3.2	3.1	10.6
112	47	Quotient	43	50	-2	3.3	7.0	
259	134	Racal Elect (aa)	167	171●	-3	5.0	3.0	17.0
414	227	Racal Telecom (aa)	260	265●	-1	5.7	2.2	22.1
177	80	Ross	87	92	–	0.7	0.8	–
85	23	SD-Scicon	24	27	–	1.0	3.8	68.4
210	166	Sage Gp	192	197	–	9.3	4.8	10.2
151	68	Scantronic	57	62●	..	4.0	6.7	5.0
165	98	Scholes Grp	110	120	+2	10.4	9.0	9.7
630	392	Senta Gp	455	459	-7	3.3	0.7	37.9
80	15	Sistram	15	20	–	1.1	6.1	3.0
325	232	STC (aa)	319	322	–	15.0	4.7	10.1
28⅛	15⅛	TDK	17		+⅛			
37	19	Telemetrix	18	20	–	0.7	3.7	7.3
822	570	THORN EMI (aa)	662	670●	+4	40.7	6.1	8.7
23	3⅛	Touchstone	5⅛	6	-1	–●		
195	93	Tunstall	99	109●	-1	6.7	6.4	5.1
398	189	Unitech	187	197	..	15.6	8.1	12.9
85	26	Utd Scientific	35	40●	-1	2.7	7.1	
315	222	Volex	230	240●	..	22.7	9.7	7.4
66	18	Western Selection	17	21●	..	1.3	6.8	
380	283	Wholesale Fittings	287	297	+2	22.2	7.6	10.4

ELECTRICITY

1990/91 High	Low	Company	Price Bid	Offer	Ch'nge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
153	100	East Midlands	145	147	-2⅛	20.1	13.8	4.8
149⅛	100	Eastern Elect	135	138	-⅛	19.3	14.2	5.0
149	100	London Elect	143	145	-⅛	19.9	13.8	5.1
180	100	Manweb	166	167	-1⅛	21.3	12.8	5.0
151	100	Midlands Elec	139	141	+⅛	20.1	14.4	4.6
152	100	Northern Elec	144	147	+1	21.7	14.9	4.3
154	100	Norweb	145	148	+1	20.8	14.1	5.4
151	100	Seeboard	136	138	-2	15.7	18.4	5.2
173	100	Sth Wales	157	158	+⅛	21.3	13.5	4.8
154	100	Sth Western	140	141	-⅛	20.3	14.4	4.7
151	100	Southern Elec	141	142	-1	19.3	13.6	5.1
170⅛	100	Yorkshire Elec	159	161	+⅛	20.6	12.9	4.6
£1575	£1000	Package Unit	£1485		+£2			

1990/91 High	Low	Company	Price Bid	Offer	Ch'nge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
30	18	Oil Search	20	22	+1	–	–	–
70	29	Petrocon	27	34	+1	1.6	5.8	7.0
14	6	Petrez	5	8	–	–	–	38.3
121	58	Premier	60	63	+1⅛	–	–	–
575	290	Presidio	280	320	-10	–	–	–
438	334	Ranger	375	380	–	–	–	–
50⅛	38⅛	Royal Dutch FI5	39⅛		–	–	–	–
508	424	Shell (aa)	442	445	+3	25.5	5.7	13.8
218	168	Sovereign	178	182	..	–	–	–
7	5	Target Res P/P	5	6	..	–	–	74.0
235	107	Triton Europe	105	110	–	–	–	–
385	311	Ultramar (aa)	317	320	+1⅛	12.7	4.0	12.9
183	111	Woodside	113	116	-1	..	..	–

OVERSEAS TRADERS

1990/91 High	Low	Company	Price Bid	Offer	Ch'nge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
630	280	Antofagasta	285	305	–	17.0	5.8	4.1
65	28	Boustead	25	27	-⅛	2.1	8.1	5.4
152	53	Chillington	50	55	–	6.7	12.8	6.2
128	55	Finlay (James)	62	65	–	5.5	8.6	7.1
320	187	Inchcape (aa)	237	242	+5	15.1	6.3	10.7
298	182	Lonrho (aa)	205	208	+1	20.0	9.7	11.4
350	280	Paterson Zoch	308	318	-4	12.6	4.0	9.9
350	284⅛	Do 'A'	305	315	-5	12.6	4.1	10.2
99	61	Sime Darby	66	73	–	–	–	–

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

1990/91 High	Low	Company	Price Bid	Offer	Ch'nge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
158	78	API	75	80●	-2	9.0	11.5	13.0
276	170	Abbott Mead	182	187	+4	10.0	5.4	7.4
65	3	Acsis Group	1	4	–	1.5	50.0	0.6
27⅛	10	Addison Cons	10	11	+⅛	–●	–	–
260	128	Argos Gp	125	130	-1	7.0	5.5	7.4
105	68	BML Res	75	80	–	5.6	7.2	6.7
184	114	Bemrose	110	119	-6	15.1b	13.2	8.0
107	23	Brunning	28	33 v	..	–	–	8.6
118	42	Berrol (aa)	61	65	-2	7.9	12.5	7.8
119	83	CIA Gp	80	85	–	1.3	1.6	9.0
140	95	Creeper (James)	120	128●	..	3.7	3.0	11.3
92	40	Delyn Packaging	38	42	–	1.9	4.8	8.1
225	171	Ferguson Ind	185	190	–	16.7	8.9	6.0
238	21	Fetch-RS	28	33	-2	5.5	17.7	0.9
38	18	Geers Gross	20	22	–	2.7	12.9	5.0
216	43	Gold Greenlees	67	72	–	11.1	15.9	2.3
163	43	Goodhead	58	63	–	8.6	14.4	4.9
213	11	Hunterprint	11	14	–			
108	48	Lopex	48	53	+3	9.2	18.0	2.3
500	285	Lowe Group	450	500	..	19.7	3.9	11.0
433	165	Mora O'Ferrall	167	174	-1	17.6	10.3	4.5
185	67	Olives Hldgs	62	72	–	12.0	17.9	3.2
158	87	Quarto	83	90	–	6.5	7.5	5.0
233	168	St Ives Gp	181	193	-1	6.7	3.5	10.6
275	23	Saatchi 10p (aa)	23	24	-⅛	–	–	–
148	48	Standwick	47	52	–	4.7	9.4	3.2
347	254	Smith David	265	272	-6	12.3	4.6	10.1
680	440	Smurfit (Jeff)	435	455	-3			
353	225	Usher Walker	225	235	+5	14.7	6.4	6.7
74	7	VPI Gp	7	9	–	2.1e	26.3	0.8
715	45	WPP	70	77	–	–	–	1.0
343	181	Wace	208	213	-2	10.7	5.1	6.7
175	118	Waddington (J)	137	140●	..	10.5	7.8	10.9
435	287⅛	Watmough	305	315	–	13.7	4.4	10.5
31	8	Waverley Cam	5	7	-1	–●	–	54.5
219	152	Wiggins Teape Appltn	185	188	+3	11.1	5.9	–

PROPERTY

1990/91 High	Low	Company	Price Bid	Offer	Ch'nge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
113	77	Allied Lon	85	88	-2	4.7	5.4	37.2
173	60	Arcadian	75	85	–	4.7	5.9	..
120	58	Asda	67	72	-1	2.3	3.3	13.8
125	33	BHH Group	32	34	-1	2.7	8.2	8.6
115	50	Baker Harris	45	55	–	2.7	5.4	13.9
463	328	Bilton (P)	360	375	-3	22.2	6.0	19.0
185	77	Boome End	75	85	–	4.0	5.0	9.0
125	86	Bradford	114	119	–	4.5	3.8	14.0
227	60	Brixton	60	70	–	3.2	4.9	3.1
425	218	Br Land (aa)	260	265●	+2	9.5	3.6	15.7
191	129	Brixton	152	158	-3	8.8	5.6	16.9
46	31	Burford	35	38	–	1.0	2.7	28.4
377	322	Cap & Counties	325	335	–	17.0	5.2	14.6

WATER

1990/91 High	Low	Company	Price Bid	Offer	Ch'nge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
287	209	Anglian Water	268	272	+2	20.4	7.6	6.3
298	215⅛	Northumbrian	274	277	–	21.4	7.8	3.4
276	211⅛	North West	265	269	–	21.0	7.8	5.8
246	190	Severn Trent	241	245	–	19.8	8.1	4.2
251	191	South Water	240	245	–	20.0	8.2	5.2
281	200	South West	262	267	+3	23.2	8.8	4.3
276	206	Thames Water	262	265	-1	21.4	8.1	6.5
288	219	Welsh Water	284	288	+3	22.4	7.8	4.6
268	203	Wessex Water	263	268	+3	20.3	7.9	5.1
288	221⅛	Yorkshire Water	275	280	-1	20.6	7.4	6.0
£2700	£1000	Package Unit	£2633		+£8			

● Ex dividend a Ex all b Forecast dividend e Interim payment passed f Price at suspension g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment k Pre-merger figures n Forecast earnings o Ex other r Ex rights s Ex scrip or share split t Tax-free .. No significant data.

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WALL STREET

Blue chips decline at mid-morning

New York

BLUE chips slipped in dull, mid-morning trading. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 5 points to 2,493.76.

Jack Conlon, the managing director of Rothschild Inc, said the market was set for a further recovery after Thursday's 29-point blue-chip rally. He said: "But traders don't like to be long over a weekend and all bets are off in the event of an outbreak of hostilities in the Middle East."

● **Hong Kong** — Light buying of safe blue chips by institutions and speculators banking on an eleventh hour solution in the Gulf pushed the Hang Seng index up 22.84 to 3,058.37. The broader-based Hong Kong index gained 14.57 to 2,004.60 on turnover of HK$486.19 million (£32.7 million) after HK$454.21 million on Thursday.

● **Sydney** — The market recovered from its declining trend, ending firmer after a bullish performance on Wall Street overnight and on Gulf peace hopes.

The All-Ordinaries index closed 10.1 points stronger at 1,243.8. The rise wiped out most of this week's losses.

(Reuter)

WORLD MARKETS

Gulf hopes lift Tokyo 193 points

Tokyo

STOCKS closed higher on hopes that Iraq will make a fresh initiative to end the Gulf troubles peacefully after a day when the Nikkei index fluctuated in volume well above recent levels. The Nikkei rose 193.66 points to 23,241.02.

About 350 million shares changed hands (260 million on Thursday). The main rises were in the broking, rubber, railway/bus, electrical, non-life insurance, oil, retail, construction, mining and precision instrument sectors.

● **Frankfurt** — Reports that troops of the Soviet Union had stormed Lithuania's defence headquarters wiped out a surge in prices. The Dax index ended 1.14 points lower at 1,382.26. *(Reuter)*

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Thomson Corp	745p (+10p)
British Borneo	610p (+10p)
Gibbs & Dandy	90p (+10p)
A Kershaw	460p (+10p)
Broken Hill	391½p (+9p)
Rank Org	607½p (+9p)
J Mowlem	258½p (+7p)
Kingfisher	385p (+7p)
Clifford Foods 'A'	162p (+7p)

FALLS:

Pearson	627½p (-18p)
Presidio	290p (-10p)
M&G	366½p (-12p)
Standard Chartered	212½p (-13p)
YJ Lovell	115p (-9p)
Fisons	355½p (-12½p)
Hawker Siddeley	427½p (-8p)
Brown & Tawse	54½p (-13p)
London Intl	206½p (-9½p)
British Telecom	271½p (-8p)
Barclays	343½p (-6p)

Closing prices

STOCK MARKET

Downgrading by Hoare knocks shares in Lucas

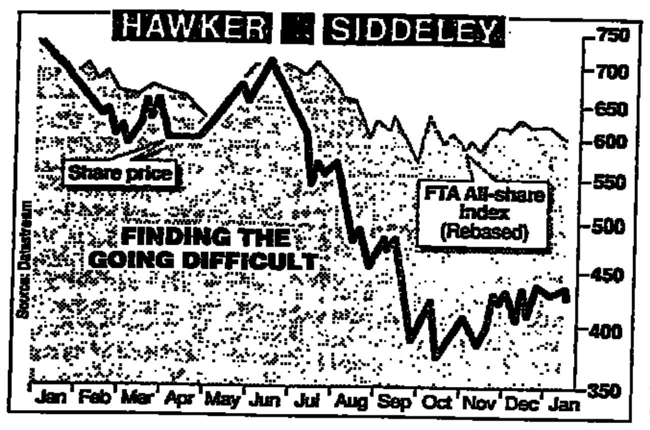
SHARES in Lucas Industries, the automotive and aerospace components group, fell 6p to 129p after a swingeing downgrading of profits by Hoare Govett, the broker.

Hoare has slashed its forecast for the current year (to July 31) by £30 million, to £155 million, after meeting the company. It has also cut its estimate for 1992 by £20 million to £170 million.

Lucas says that the real extent of the economic downturn has not been fully realised. The automotive industry, which accounts for about 60 per cent of its profits, has been badly hit. Peugeot, the French car maker, announced this week that it would be cutting back production in Britain from next month.

But Hoare takes an optimistic long-term view of the prospects for Lucas. The aerospace industry is continuing to grow and should make a valuable contribution to earnings in the years ahead.

The rest of the equity market ended the account on a dull note with events in the Gulf continuing to affect sentiment. An early rise of almost 16 points on the back of a firm performance overnight on Wall Street soon faded as the buying dried up. The FT-SE 100 index finished 2.6 down at 2,106.1 with only 402 million shares traded.



Market-makers continued to operate small positions, anxious to avoid trouble as the January 15 deadline for the Iraqi withdrawal draws nearer. Fund managers have been unwilling to open new positions, fearing the repercussions of a long war. The FT index of 30 shares lost 4.3 at 1,643.0. Government securities spent a lacklustre day, closing with losses stretching to £⅛.

Hawker Siddeley fell 8p to 428p after Kleinwort Benson, the broker, became bearish. Kleinwort's profits forecast of £140 million is already at the bottom of the market range. But it issued a warning that further redundancies may be imminent because of the deteriorating conditions in the engineering industry. The cost of recent restructuring is estimated at £25 million which may now be taken above the line.

Suggestions that Losec, the anti-ulcer drug developed by the Swedish Astra group, may not receive full approval from the American Food and Drug Adminstration, lifted Glaxo by 24p to 842p. Glaxo has been under a shadow of late, worried about increased competition for Zantac, its best-selling, anti-ulcer drug.

Fisons was a weak market, falling 12½p to 355½p on talk of a profits downgrading. This was in spite of the efforts of Goldman Sachs and Nomura, which were both big buyers of the stock.

Wellcome recovered some of its poise with a rise of 10p to 426p. Hoare recently decided to downgrade its profit forecast with sales of Retrovir, its anti-Aids drug, failing to live up to expectations. But a rival broker, James Capel, is still bullish. Robin Gilbert, an analyst, says the market is inclined to overlook Wellcome's other achievements and says that Zovirax, its anti-herpes drug, is far more successful than Retrovir. Capel has played down the benefits to profits of Retrovir and bases its calculations on sales of Zovirax.

Capel's estimates for the current year remain unaltered at £350 million compared with £315 million last time.

The water companies attracted selective support with a number of them going ex-dividend on Monday. **Anglian** rose 2p to 270p, **South West** 3p to 265p, **Welsh** 3p to 286p and **Wessex** 3p to 266p. **Northumbrian**, 276p, **North West**, 267p, **Severn Trent**, 243p, and **Southern**, 243p closed unchanged.

MICHAEL CLARK

Rolls-Royce remained a dull market, sliding 2p to 154p. The shares have fallen from 175p since November, with brokers becoming increasingly pessimistic about the outlook as the recession bites even deeper. Some of them are even worried about further job losses.

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES

Atlantis Resources	37
Aberforth Smlr Cos	97
Brabant Res	148
CMW Group	28
Castle Cairn (50p)	31
ECU Tst	40 -1
EFM Java Tst	35 +1
Eidos	91
Excalibur Gp	44
Faber Prest	145
Golden Vale	48
Invergordon	139 +2
Levercrest	92
MMI	19
Malaysia Capital	26⅝
Midland Radio	99
Paramount	9½
Pittencrieff	85
Pelican Gp	25
Proteus Intl	85 -3
Seton Healthcare	141
St James Place	62
Smaller IT	66
Stand Platform	162
Tr Euro Gwth	83 -1
Utd Energy	1¼
Utd Uniform	93 -3
Unichem	116
Wig Tpe App	187 +3

MAJOR INDICES

New York:	
Dow Jones	2493.32 (-5.44)*
S&P Composite	314.20 (-0.33)*
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	23241.02 (+193.66)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	3058.37 (+22.84)
FT-SE Eurotrack	929.86 (+1.13)
Amsterdam:	
CBS Tendency	78.0 (-0.1)
Sydney: AO	1243.8 (+10.1)
Frankfurt: DAX	1382.26 (-1.14)
Brussels:	
General	4775.32 (+10.36)
Paris: CAC	407.44 (+0.79)
Zurich: SKA Gen	438.6 (-3 1)
London:	
FT.—A All-Share	1012.23 (-1.58)
FT.— "500"	1117.86 (-0.52)
FT. Gold Mines	172.0 (-0.2)
FT. Fixed interest	91 06 (-0.03)
FT. Govt Secs	83.29 (-0.02)
Bargains	32250
SEAQ Volume	402.3m
USM (Datastream)	106.63 (+0.15)

*Denotes latest trading price

ALL BOX NO. REPLIES SHOULD BE SENT TO:
BOX NO.
BOX NO. DEPT.,
P.O. BOX 484,
VIRGINIA STREET
WAPPING,
LONDON,
E1 9DD.

	Jan 11 midday	Jan 10 close		Jan 11 midday	Jan 10 close		Jan 11 midday	Jan 10 close
Abbott Lab	40%	40%	Enron	50%	50%	Oryx Enrgy	34%	35
Aetna Life	35	34%	Entergy	22%	22%	Pac Ent	38%	38%
Ahmanson	12%	12%	Ethyl	23	22%	Pac Gas Elec	24%	24%
Air Prods	53%	52%	Exxon	50	50%	Pac Telesis	42%	42%
Albertsons	34%	34½	Fed NMA	34%	33%	Paccar	33	32
Alcan Al	19%	19%	Fedrl Exprs	32%	33%	Pacificrp	21%	21%
Alco Stand	33%	33%	Flt Norstar	10%	10%	Pall	36%	37%
Allied Signal	26%	26%	Fluor	35%	35%	Paramount	41%	41%
Alumin CA	55%	55%	FMC	30%	29%	Parker-Hanfn	23%	23
Am Brands	37	37%	Ford Motor	25%	25%	Penney	44	43%
Am Cyanmd	49%	49%	FPL	28%	28%	Pennzoil	65%	65%
Am EPC	27%	27%	Fst Chicago	15%	15%	Pepsico	24%	24%
Am General	28%	28%	Fst Intrsta	20%	20%	Pfizer	75	75%
Am Home	48	47%	Fst Union	14%	14%	Phlps Pet	24%	25
Am Intl	73½	73%	Gannett	38%	36%	Philips Elec	17%	17%
Am Medical	5%	5	Gen Cinema	19%	19%	Phlp Morris	49%	49
Am Stores	56%	55%	Gen Elec	63%	54	Phlps Dodge	53	53%
Amax	21%	21%	Gen Mills	45%	44%	Pitney Bow	38%	38%
Amer Hess	45%	45	Gen Motors	31%	31%	Plcr Dome	15%	15%
Ameritech	64%	64	Gen RE	87%	86%	PNC Fncl	20%	21
Amex	19%	20%	Gen Signal	35%	35%	Prmdle Ests	11%	11%
Amoco	48%	48%	Genentech	21%	n/a	Polaroid	22%	22%
AMP	42%	42%	Genuine Pts	35%	36%	PPG Inds	43%	43%
AMR	46%	46%	Georgia-Pac	37%	37%	Prctr Gmble	80%	80%
Anheuser-B	40%	40%	Gillette	58	57%	Price	39%	38%
Apple Comp	46	47%	Goodrich	37%	37%	Primerica	22%	22%
Archer-Dan	20%	20%	Goodyear	17%	17%	Pub Service	26%	26%
Arkla	18%	18%	Grace	24%	24%	Quaker Oats	48%	48%
Armstrong	23%	24	Greyhound	26	26%	Ralston Pur	92%	92%
Asarco	26%	26%	Gt Atlantic	41%	41%	Raychem	23%	21%
Ashland Oil	28	27%	Gt Western	11%	11%	Raytheon	67%	67%
AT&T	29%	29%	GTE	28%	28%	Reebok	11%	11%
Atlan Richfld	120	120%	Halliburtn	41%	41%	Roadway	39%	39%
Auto DP	50%	50%	Heinz	32%	33	Rockwell	23%	23%
Avery Intl	20%	20%	Hercules	33%	33%	Rohm Haas	33%	33%
Avon Prod	26%	26%	Hershey Fd	36%	36	Royal Dutch	74%	74%
Baltimore	26%	26%	Hewlett Pkd	30%	30%	Rubbermaid	39%	38%
Banc One	25%	26%	Hilton Htl	37%	37%	Rynlds Mtl	53%	53%
Bankamerica	24	23%	Home Depot	35½	36%	Safeco	31%	31%
Bard	15%	16	Homestake	18%	18%	Salomon	23%	23%
Barnett Bk	16%	16%	Honeywell	42%	42%	Sant Fe Pac	5%	6
Bausch Lmb	65	65	Houston Ind	35%	35%	Sara Lee	30%	30%
Baxter Intl	26½	26%	Hsehld Intl	29%	28%	Schecorp	37%	37%
Bec Dickin	70	70%	Humana	38%	38%	Schlumbgr	51%	51%
Bell Atlan	49%	49%	IBM	108	108%	Schrg-Plgh	42%	42%
Bellsouth	51½	51%	IF&F	69	70%	Scott Papr	36%	37
Bkr Hughes	21%	22%	Illinois TW	46%	46%	Seagram	83%	83%
Black Decker	9	9%	Inco	24%	24%	Sears Rbk	25	24%
Block	41%	41%	Ingsol-Rand	35%	35%	Secrty Pac	17%	17%
Bnkrs Tst NY	42%	42%	Inland Steel	23%	23%	Shrwn-Wlms	35%	36%
Boeing	44%	45	Intel	38%	39%	Skyline	16	15%
Boise Casc	24%	24%	Intl Paper	52%	52%	Snap-on Tls	29%	31
Borden	28%	28%	ITT	46%	46%	Southern	27	26%
Brist-Myer	62%	63	James River	24%	24%	St Paul	57%	58
Browng-Fer	22	22%	Johnsn Jhsn	67%	67%	Stanley Wk	26%	27
Burl Nth	28%	28%	K Mart	26%	25%	Stone Cntr	9%	9%
CAI	6%	7%	Kellogg	73	72	Sun Co	29%	29%
Campbell Sp	54½	55	Kerr-McGee	42%	43	Suntst Bk	21%	22
Cap Cities	423	425%	Kmbly-Clrk	80	80%	Super Valu	22%	22%
Capital HC	36%	36%	Knight-Rddr	44%	44%	SW Bell	52%	52%
Carolina	44%	44%	Lilly	68%	69	Syntex	56%	56%
Caterpillar	46%	45%	Limited	19%	19%	Sysco	31½	31%
CBS	168	165%	Lin Brdcstg	58%	59	Tandem	10%	10%
Central SW	43%	43%	Lincln Nat	38%	38%	Tandy	27%	27%
Champion	24%	25%	Litton Ind	74%	74%	Tele-comm	11%	11%
Chase Man	10%	10%	Lockheed	32%	32%	Teledyne	16%	16%
Chem Bnkg	10%	10%	Louis-Pac	27%	27	Temple-In	29%	28%
Chevron	71	71%	Manu Hano	19%	19	Tenneco	42%	42%
Chrysler	12%	12%	Marriott	10	10%	Texaco	57%	58%
Chubb	52%	51%	Marsh Mclen	71%	71%	Texas Inst	38%	39%
Cigna	36%	37	Martin Mar	44	42%	Texas Util	36	36
Citicorp	12	12%	Masco	17%	17%	Textron	26%	26%
Clbrne Liz	29%	30	May Dept	39%	38%	Time Wrnr	79%	82%
Clorox	36%	36%	Maytag	11%	11	Times Mirr	27	27
Cmwlth Edis	34%	34%	MCA	n/a	n/a	Timken	22	22%
CNA Fincl	63%	63%	McDnl Doug	28%	27%	Torchmark	48	47%
Coastal	27%	28%	McDonalds	27%	27%	Toys R Us	23%	23%
Coca-Cola	44%	43%	McGraw-Hill	50%	50%	Transam	30%	30%
Colgate-Pal	69%	68%	MCI Com	18%	19	Travelers	17	16%
Columb Gas	44	44%	Mead	25%	25%	Tribune	34%	34%
Compaq	55%	55%	Medtronic	61	60%	TRW	35%	34%
Conagra	34%	34%	Melville	38%	38	Tyco Lab	39%	40
Cons Edis	23%	23%	Merck	82%	83%	UAL	115%	114%
Cons NG	42%	42%	Merll Lynch	20%	20	Un Camp	35%	35%
Cons Rail	37%	37%	MM&M	80	79%	Un Carbide	16½	16%
Cooper Ind	39%	38%	Mobil	55%	56%	Un Pacific	66%	67%
Corning	42%	43%	Monsanto	46%	47%	Unilever	84%	84%
CPC Intl	75%	76%	Moore	21%	21%	Unisys	2%	2%
Crown Cork	55%	55%	Morgan	44%	44%	Unocal	24%	24%
CSX	30%	30%	Motorola	48%	60%	Upjohn	36	36%
Dana	27%	27%	Nat Medical	38	37%	US West	36%	36%
Dayton-Hud	54%	54%	Nat Semi	4%	4%	Usair Gp	15%	15%
Deere	46%	47%	Nat Service	24%	24%	USF&G	8	8
Delta Air	59%	59	Navistar	2%	2%	UST	33%	33%
Deluxe	34%	33%	NCNB	21%	21%	USX	28%	28%
Detroit Edi	28%	28½	NCR	85%	85%	Utd Tech	43%	44
Digital Eq	53%	53%	NED Bncp	32%	31%	Utd Telcm	22%	22%
Dillard	86%	85	Newmnt Min	40%	40%	VF	18%	18%
Disney	94%	95%	Niagr Mhwk	12%	13%	Wal-Mart	29%	29
Dominion	45%	45%	Nike	37%	38%	Walgreen	50%	50%
Donnelley	39%	40%	NL Indstrs	9%	9%	Waste Mgmt	33%	33%
Dover	37%	37%	Nordstorm	24%	24%	Wells Fargo	52%	51%
Dow Chem	45%	46	Norflk Sthn	40	40%	Westg Elec	23%	24%
Dow Jones	25	25	Norwest	19%	19%	Weyerhsr	21%	21%
Dresser Ind	19%	19	Nthn St Pwr	32%	32%	Whirlpool	22	22%
Du Pont	33%	33%	Nthn Telcm	25%	27%	Whitman	18%	18%
Duke Pwr	30%	30%	NY Times	20%	20%	Winn-Dixie	30%	30%
Dun Bradst	40%	40%	Nynex	68%	68%	Woolworth	26%	26%
East Kodak	39%	39%	Occid Petrl	17%	17%	Wrigley	50%	50%
Eaton	48%	49	Ohio Edi	16%	16%	Wrner-Lamb	63%	69%
Emerson El	38%	38%	Oracle Sys	6%	6%	Xerox	40	39%

WORLD MARKET INDICES

Index	Value	Daily ch'ge (£)	Yearly ch'ge (£)	Daily ch'ge (lc)*	Yearly ch'ge (lc)*	Daily ch'ge (US$)	Yearly ch'ge (US$)
The World	564.5	0.5	-33.1	0.5	-25.0	0.2	-21.0
(free)	108.0	0.5	-33.1	0.4	-24.9	0.2	-21.0
EAFE	973.4	0.7	-37.5	0.3	-32.3	0.3	-26.3
(free)	100.1	0.7	-37.6	0.2	-32.4	0.3	-26.3
Europe	580.4	-0.1	-23.7	-0.2	-20.9	-0.5	-10.0
(free)	125.7	-0.2	-23.1	-0.5	-20.4	-0.5	-9.2
Nth America	408.6	0.4	-24.1	0.1	-10.4	0.1	-10.4
Nordic	1034.0	0.7	-33.6	0.6	-28.4	0.4	-21.6
(free)	170.5	0.5	-27.5	0.4	-22.2	0.1	-14.5
Pacific	2170.6	1.3	-45.3	0.7	-39.3	1.0	-35.4
Far East	3148.0	1.3	-45.6	0.7	-39.9	1.0	-35.8
Australia	226.1	1.5	-34.9	1.0	-21.7	1.1	-23.2
Austria	1206.7	-0.2	-18.8	-0.1	-12.9	-0.5	-4.2
Belgium	670.8	0.2	-31.9	0.2	-28.5	-0.1	-19.6
Canada	426.4	0.6	-29.0	0.5	-16.4	0.3	-16.2
Denmark	1033.1	0.3	-21.5	0.4	-16.8	0.0	-7.4
Finland	60.2	1.7	-47.8	1.7	-43.8	1.4	-38.4
(free)	85.7	0.2	-42.5	0.2	-38.1	-0.1	-32.1
France	555.1	-1.2	-31.4	-1.2	-27.0	-1.5	-19.0
Germany	671.8	0.3	-26.8	0.3	-21.6	0.0	-13.6
Hong Kong	1973.8	0.6	-11.0	0.7	4.9	0.3	5.0
Italy	250.3	0.0	-35.1	0.0	-30.2	-0.4	-23.4
Japan	3301.6	1.3	-46.5	0.7	-41.0	1.0	-36.8
Netherlands	719.4	-0.2	-23.9	-0.2	-18.6	-0.5	-10.2
New Zealand	51.4	2.1	-50.2	1.2	-41.2	1.8	-41.2
Norway	1012.8	-1.0	-24.5	-1.0	-19.0	-1.3	-11.0
(free)	177.7	-1.3	-23.9	-1.3	-18.3	-1.6	-10.2
Sing/Malay	1439.7	0.5	-27.8	0.2	-21.2	0.2	-14.8
Spain	161.6	0.8	-31.7	0.5	-28.9	0.5	-19.4
Sweden	1097.7	1.2	-37.4	1.0	-32.0	0.9	-26.1
(free)	160.2	1.5	-33.8	1.3	-28.1	1.2	-21.9
Switzerland	684.6	0.1	-25.1	-0.3	-26.4	-0.2	-11.7
(free)	104.0	-0.2	-25.5	-0.6	-26.8	-0.5	-12.1
UK	627.6	-0.3	-13.0	-0.3	-13.0	-0.6	2.7
USA	369.0	0.4	-23.6	0.1	-9.9	0.1	-9.9

(lc) Local currency.* *Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International.*

FT-SE 100 VOLUMES

	Vol '000		Vol '000		Vol '000		Vol '000
Abbey Nat	3,040	Cadbury	704	L&G	549	Royal Bnk	1,262
Alld-Lyons	1,404	CU	1,140	Lloyds	1,015	Royal Ins	1,112
Anglian	849	Courtaulds	200	Lonrho	1,432	Sainsbury	1,687
ASDA	7,090	Dalgety	187	Lucas	2,372	Scot & N	795
AB Foods	726	Enterprise	212	M&S	2,382	Sears	1,098
Argyll	2,056	Eurotunnel	635	Maxwell Cm	59	Severn Trnt	2,712
BAA	869	Fisons	3,161	MEPC	268	Shell	1,803
BET	2,897	Gen Acc	372	Midland	2,509	Smith & N	3,600
BTR	1,044	GEC	4,647	Nat West	3,892	SK Beech	2,055
BAT	819	Glaxo	2,144	N W Water	1,923	STC	111
Barclays	1,877	Grand Met	5,701	P&O	1,388	Sun Allnce	867
Bass	329	GUS 'A'	208	Pearson	773	Tarmac	1,276
BICC	454	GRE	897	Pilkington	1,331	TSB	3,365
Bk Scotlnd	211	GKN	1,924	Prudential	1,786	Tesco	3,800
Blue Circle	2,683	Guinness	1,247	Racal	4,037	Thames Wtr	598
BOC	564	Hamm 'A'	259	Rk Hovis	311	Thorn EMI	234
Boots	954	Hanson	4,151	Rank	221	Trafalgar	2,677
Br Aero	953	H & C	689	R&C	288	THF	1,785
Br Airways	808	Hawker	970	Redland	438	Ultramar	435
Br Gas	6,759	Hillsdown	562	Reed	2,966	Unilever	1,397
Br Petrol	6,654	ICI	679	Reuters	735	United Bis	1,363
Br Steel	1,801	Kingfisher	1,440	RMC Gp	660	Wellcome	2,207
Br Telecm	4,995	Lasmo	828	RTZ	436	Whitbrd	280
Burmah Cst	277	Ladbroke	2,949	R-Royce	3,813	Wig Teape	4,935
C&W	1,142	Land Sec	961	Rothmn 'B'	163	Willis Cor	805

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
January 7	January 18	April 11	April 22

taken out on: 11/1/91 Aitken Hume, Berisford Intl, Brent Walker,
Premier Cons, Richmond Oil & Gas.

The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc

"Despite the difficult overall environment all of our principal operating divisions continued to trade profitably. Profit before tax after specific provisions for bad debts and after a recovery in respect of loans to countries in payment difficulties of £20.8 million amounted to £262.2 million compared with £228.2 million last year when we made provisions for LDC debt of £108.3 million. The downturn in the UK economy, which intensified rapidly as we went through the year, caused problems for a number of our customers. As a Group we have an ambitious and challenging vision for the mid-1990's and our new structure is designed to enable us to achieve it whatever economic problems and competitive strains lie ahead."

Sir Michael Herries, Chairman speaking at the AGM of The Royal Bank of Scotland Group in Edinburgh on Thursday 10 January 1991.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER, 1990

■ Profit before taxation increased by 14.9% to £262.2 million.
■ Annual dividend raised by 16.7%.
■ Shareholders' funds increased by 6.9% to £1,508.4 million.
■ Strong capital base. BIS ratio of 11.6%.
■ LDC debt exposure reduced to £39.5 million (US $74.1 million) against which there are provisions of £31.1 million (US $58.3 million).
■ Total assets rose 10 per cent to £30.1 billion.

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

For a copy of the annual report and accounts, please complete this form and send it to
The Secretary,
The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc,
42 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YE.

Name ____________

Address ____________

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Post Code ____________

T1/12/CS

Chancellor's team faces gathering gloom at Chevening

Hopes for growth are diminishing as Norman Lamont and his aides meet to discuss the state of the economy, Colin Narbrough reports

NORMAN Lamont, the Chancellor, and his top Treasury aides gather at Chevening, Kent, this weekend to consider the worsened economic outlook and the scope for pulling the economy out of recession in time for the next election.

Estimates on which the highly confidential discussions are based will show that the Treasury is gloomier about the prospects for economic growth than at the time of the autumn statement in November.

Zero growth is now considered likely.

John Major, then Chancellor, assumed in the autumn statement that gross domestic product would still manage to grow 0.5 per cent in 1991, after 1 per cent last year, despite the slowdown brought about by the prolonged counter-inflationary squeeze.

Economists from the City and academia have, however, downgraded their growth forecasts sharply since the autumn, with forecasts centring on growth of about 0.1 per cent for 1991, the worst for nine years.

Annual inflation is expected to fall in line with Treasury predictions, dropping to about 5.5 per cent at the end of this year. Next year, the economy is expected to show growth in excess of 2 per cent.

Bill Martin, chief economist at UBS Phillips & Drew, believes the Chancellor is unlikely to risk more than a mild relaxation of the fiscal reins this year.

"The Chancellor's most important policy decision will not come in the Budget. The main potential challenge facing him later this year is whether to devalue sterling," he said.

But Mr Martin, who expects lower inflation than the Treasury at the end of this year and recovery starting in the second half, believes Mr Lamont will probably resist devaluation.

Britain's entry to the exchange-rate mechanism of the European Monetary System, widely regarded as ill timed, has meanwhile limited the government's scope for reducing interest rates quickly to avert deepening recession.

A war in the Gulf would upset the Treasury's latest calculations, with higher oil prices exerting inflationary pressure and possibly reducing growth, if hostilities cause serious damage to the region's oilfields.

Though ministers have acknowledged that a technical recession, two successive quarters of economic shrinkage, is possible, they have sought to underline that they do not believe it will be long or severe.

The prime minister said on television last weekend that the recession would not be as bad as in the early Eighties and voiced confidence that the foundation would be laid in 1991 for good growth for the decade.

> 'The main potential challenge facing the Chancellor later this year is whether to devalue sterling'

James Capel, the broker, expects the Treasury to revise its forecast of 0.5 per cent growth to a 0.5 per cent decline, but without a deep recession. The Treasury believes that the worst of the recession will be over in the first half of 1991, after which the economy will start to improve.

A sharp rise in the numbers of unemployed, while retail sales, manufacturing output and investment have tumbled, have painted a clear picture of an economy that has contracted since the autumn statement.

The gathering at Chevening is not intended to discuss Budget measures, but is expected to hear that the Treasury is assuming a return to a small budget deficit this year as recession causes tax revenues to fall and boosts spending on the jobless and social services. Mr Major said last Sunday that short-term deficit was "not a very serious matter". Policy had always been to maintain budget balance in the medium term, not every year.

Neil MacKinnon, chief economist at Yamaichi, the Japanese securities house, not only expects the government to have a borrowing requirement this year, after a small surplus in 1990, but foresees substantial tax cuts to revive the economy in place of the rapid interest rate cuts the disciplines of ERM will prevent. "Easier fiscal policy is the way out of the corner the government has painted itself into," he said.

Some City economists believe the budget surplus could already have disappeared in this fiscal year, instead of showing the £3 billion debt repayment predicted by the Treasury. For 1991-2, the analysts are now looking for a deficit exceeding £7 billion.

Moving the pound to narrower fluctuation bands within the ERM may also be considered at Chevening. This would enhance the credibility of the government's commitment to the parity grid, a commitment that has won increasing acknowledgement in the financial markets since the new year.

● Gordon Brown, shadow trade and industry secretary, said last night the Chevening summit must end the government's do-nothing, self-satisfied complacency towards the recession and concentrate on the long-term damage to industry of falling investment and rising unemployment (Sheila Gunn writes).

"Britain now needs a Budget that will take the country out of the deepening recession that industry faces," he told a meeting in his Dunfermline East constituency.

"The Chancellor should know that Britain now has the fastest rising unemployment in Europe as well as the widest trade gap and the highest interest rates. His Budget must take into account the fact that Britain, uniquely in western Europe, has falling investment in the run-up to 1992."

He said that more than 500 companies a week were going bust in a winter of rising bankruptcies, closures and redundancies hitting all regions and all industries.

SFO tries to keep a low profile despite highly public raids

Discretion first in fighting fraud

Barbara Mills: 'We realise we can have a damaging effect on the share price'

Barbara Mills became director of the Serious Fraud Office on September 3 and immediately became controversial in a way that John Wood, her forerunner, never had to consider.

In less than four months at the helm, Mrs Mills has embarked on three high-profile raids concerning Polly Peck International and Levitt group, and at the same time incurred the wrath of investors who believe that the SFO, by causing share prices to fluctuate wildly, is too zealous in the performance of its duty.

She said: "I think the SFO generally is being viewed positively by the press. When we make a raid on a company, we, of course, consider the effect on the share price.

"We are very conscious of this and the last thing that we try to do is to be high profile. We attempt to keep our enquiries discreet because we realise that once we become involved, we can have a damaging effect on the share price as well as the individuals."

Unlike Marjorie Mowlam, Labour's spokeswoman on City affairs, Mrs Mills disagrees that the International Stock Exchange insider trading unit should be relocated inside the trade department.

"The real question is where matters like insider trading are best investigated and regulated. There is a strong argument for the stock exchange because it is there and can move swiftly."

Mrs Mills countered criticisms, from those such as Sir John Nott, that the SFO unfairly obtains evidence from outside bodies such as the DTI.

She said: "Sir John has made two criticisms in an interview in *The Times*: first, that it is unfair that witnesses questioned by DTI inspectors must answer questions which may incriminate them, and second, that it is unfair to hand over transcripts made during DTI inspections."

Sir John said that this was done through a confusion in parliament, which he called "an anomolous situation and a not unusual muddle".

Mrs Mills said: "He is quite incorrect to say that it is a muddle; it was done deliberately by parliament.

"As far as the DTI inspectors are concerned, all witnesses have a duty to help them as much as they can. If they choose not to answer questions, the inspectors can, if they want to, certify before the court that the investigators are being obstructed in their enquiry by the witness. The court may then deal with that witness as if in contempt of court.

"There is nothing new in the handing over of evidence to the prosecuting authorities such as the SFO. You can go back to 1856 for a precedent."

The Director of Public Prosecutions used to have the powers that the SFO has assumed, and, according to Mrs Mills, always had access to these transcripts.

"We have merely adopted that practice," she said. "Fraud is peculiarly difficult to investigate because you have to get inside a company. The people who run these companies are often very powerful and are able to cover up matters, and often control their employees.

"Our powers at the moment are sufficient for the purposes for which we use them. We have the DTI transcripts, but there is no question of the Inland Revenue passing information or vice versa, unless there is a prosecution pending.

"The increase in the number of raids of late is really a function of history. In the first two years of the SFO's existence [since 1987], we took over half-investigated matters where raids had already been carried out by the police and had no publicity.

"Now, we are getting matters which we are investigating from scratch. That means we are carrying out the raids and this is attracting publicity because people are unaccustomed to this."

Mrs Mills is quite content with the extent of the SFO's powers but pointed out that if there was one thing the SFO could change, it would be the use of information obtained under section 2 of the the Criminal Justice Act.

"It might be worth considering putting our powers of interview on the same footing as those of the DTI. It is inconsistent that we can use transcripts of interviews with potential defendants which the DTI have taken, while we are prohibited from using those we take under section 2."

Mrs Mills, who was called to the Bar 25 years ago, has been interested in fraud for much of that time. She was one of the prosecutors in the first Guinness case, which saw the conviction of Ernest Saunders and three others.

She considers that the economic climate and better detection methods have resulted in more fraud being uncovered, and she is very hard on those who commit fraud.

"There is no such thing as victimless fraud; it is always devastating. Everyone is a victim in a fraud."

ANGELA MACKAY

Cazenove and SBC advise on Hungarian sell-off

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

THE Hungarian privatisation programme has taken another step forward with the appointment by the Hungarian State Property Agency of London-based merchant banks to advise on privatisation sales.

Cazenove, the broker, and Swiss Bank Corporation (SBC) have been appointed to advise on the sale of HungarHotels, the country's largest hotel chain. HungarHotels runs more than 40 hotels and is thought to have a value of about $750 million.

The government tried to sell the chain last year to Quintus, a Swedish group, but the sale was blocked by the Hungarian supreme court because the price was too low. The government has been accused of trying to offload state-owned companies to foreign buyers cheaply, particularly in connection with Ibusz, the travel company, which was floated in Budapest and Vienna last year.

HungarHotels is also expected to be sold through public flotations, probably in the second half of the year. This option is unique to Hungary and has been rejected by other east European governments because most citizens have insufficient savings to enable them to invest.

HungarHotels is the first large-scale privatisation project since the flotation of Ibusz.

The State Property Agency has also announced the privatisation and the appointment of financial advisers in respect of three other companies. Nomura International has been appointed to advise on the sale of Richter Gedeon Chemicals and Danubius Hotels, while Daiwa Europe will advise Salgotarjani Sikuveggyar, a glass maker.

● Daiwa, the Japanese securities house, has been appointed to preach the joys of capitalist finance in the heart of the Soviet Union, and is doing it for nothing. The firm has signed a series of agreements to advise on the creation of a stock exchange and joining the international money markets. The contracts are a significant victory for Daiwa in its drive to become the prime financial force in the Eastern bloc.

Daiwa's Institute of Research has signed a joint venture agreement with the Institute of World Economy and International Relations of the Academy of Science of the USSR. The two will undertake research on development of the Soviet economy.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

MONEY MARKETS

Exchange index compared with 1985 was down at 93.7 (day's range 93.7-93.8).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Jan 11	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
New Yrk	1.9020-1.9110	1.9070-1.9080	1.11-1.09pr	2.96-2.94pr
Montrl	2.1934-2.2047	2.2007-2.2047	0.48-0.44pr	0.99-0.90pr
Amstrdm	3.2909-3.2995	3.2943-3.2980	1⅝-1½pr	3½-3⅜pr
Brussels	60.01-60.39	60.07-60.39	24-19pr	60-53pr
Copnhgn	11.2256-11.2610	11.2380-11.2610	3⅝-3pr	9⅝-9⅛pr
Dublin	1.0917-1.0932	1.0917-1.0927	30-24pr	69-60pr
Frankft	2.9184-2.9261	2.9215-2.9250	1⅝-1½pr	3⅝-3pr
Lisbon	261.23-262.73	261.64-262.73	70-40pr	40-26pr
Madrid	183.45-184.40	183.64-184.31	7-12ds	37-47ds
Milan	2194.11-2203.13	2197.34-2202.31	4-3pr	8-6pr
Oslo	11.4006-11.4404	11.4153-11.4404	3-2½pr	6⅞-6⅛pr
Paris	9.8976-9.9273	9.9126-9.9273	3⅝-3pr	8¼-8pr
Stckhlm	10.8338-10.8946	10.8546-10.8794	¼-½pr	½pr-¼ds
Tokyo	255.33-257.32	255.73-256.05	1½-1⅜pr	3⅝-3⅜pr
Vienna	20.52-20.60	20.54-20.59	8⅝-6¾pr	22⅝-19¼pr
Zurich	2.4400-2.4575	2.4400-2.4432	1⅝-1pr	3-2⅝pr

Source: Extel — Premium = pr. Discount = ds.

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 14 Finance Hse 14

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 14 Low 13¾ Week fixed: 13⅞

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buying: 2 mth 13 9/16 ; 3 mth 13 11/32. Selling: 2 mth 13 17/32; 3 mth: 13 9/16.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	13¾-13 11/16	13 19/32-13 9/16	13⅜-13 11/32	12⅝-12 19/32	
Trade Bills (Dis):	14⅝	14 7/32	14	13⅞	
Interbank:	14 3/32-14 1/32	14⅛-14	13 31/32-13⅞	13⅞-13½	13½-13
(Overnight: open 14¼, close 13½.					
Local Authority Deps:	14	n/a	13⅞	13½	13
Sterling CDs:	14 1/16-14	14 1/32-13 31/32	13 15/16-13⅞	13⅞-13⅝	12 15/16-12½
Dollar CDs:	7.20-7.15	7.25-7.20	7.30-7.25	7.30-7.25	7.40-7.35
Building Society CDs:	14 1/16-14	14-13 15/16	13 15/16-13⅞	13½-13⅜	12 15/16-12⅞

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	6¾-6½	7⅛-6 15/16	7 5/16-7⅛	7⅜-7 3/16	6¾-5¾
Deutschemark:	8¾-8⅝	8 15/16-8 13/16	9¼-9⅛	9 5/16-9 3/16	8½-7½
French Franc:	10⅛-9⅞	10⅛-10	10 5/16-10 3/16	10 9/16-10 7/16	10-9
Swiss Franc:	8¾-8½	8 13/16-8 11/16	8 13/16-8 11/16	8¾-8⅝	8-7
Yen:	8-7¾	8 3/16-8 1/16	8 3/16-8 1/16	7 15/16-7 13/16	7¼-6¾

GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS

Bullion: Open $389.00-389.50 Close: $391.00-391.50

High: $392.00-392.50 Low: $388.00-389.50

Platinum: $422.25 (£221.70) Silver: $4.15 (£2.175)

Palladium: $88.00 (£46.20)

Source: Baird & Co

OTHER STERLING RATES

Argentina austral*	11299.8-11321.8
Australia dollar	2.4527-2.4573
Bahrain dinar	n/a
Brazil cruzeiro *	347.842-348.314
Cyprus pound	0.83-0.84
Finland marka	6.985-7.045
Greece drachma	305.65-308.95
Hong Kong dollar	14.8364-14.8462
India rupee	34.76-35.16
Kuwait dinar KD	n/a
Malaysia ringgit	5.1836-5.1683
Mexico peso	5550-5650
New Zealand dollar	3.1978-3.2048
Saudi Arabia riyal	n/a
Singapore dollar	3.3419-3.3456
S Africa rand (fin)	6.3013-6.4108
S Africa rand (com)	4.9201-4.9285
U A E dirham	n/a

Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Ireland	1.7400-1.7415
Singapore	1.7565-1.7575
Malaysia	2.7245-2.7255
Australia	1.2891-1.2908
Canada	1.1548-1.1558
Sweden	5.7050-5.7100
Norway	6.0000-6.0050
Denmark	5.9100-5.9150
W Germany	1.5350-1.5360
Switzerland	1.2850-1.2860
Netherlands	1.7300-1.7310
France	5.2075-5.2125
Japan	134.40-134.50
Italy	1154.5-1155.5
Belgium (Com)	31.60-31.65
Hong Kong	7.7980-7.7990
Portugal	137.50-137.70
Spain	96.60-96.70
Austria	10.79-10.81

TREASURY BILLS: Applcts: £1.123m allotted: £250m; Bids: £96.735% received: 97%; Last week: £96.735% received: 29%; Avge rate: £13.0826% last wk £13.0782%; Next week: £250m replace £n/a.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume
FT-SE 100 Previous open interest: 24523	Mar 91	2172.0	2177.0	2156.0	2157.0	2724
	Jun 91				2190.5	0
	Sep 91					0
Three Month Sterling Previous open interest: 119549	Mar 91	86.97	86.98	86.76	86.77	30590
	Jun 91	87.95	87.95	87.67	87.69	4209
	Sep 91	88.56	88.57	88.37	88.38	2552
Three Month Eurodollar Previous open interest: 33182	Mar 91	92.75	92.77	92.70	92.74	3938
	Jun 91	92.84	92.87	92.79	92.84	2002
Three Month Euro DM Previous open interest: 73713	Mar 91	90.50	90.50	90.41	90.44	11906
	Jun 91	90.61	90.61	90.54	90.57	1606
US Treasury Bond Previous open interest: 7149	Mar 91	95-02	95-05	94-19	94-26	3686
	Jun 91				94-11	0
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 30444	Mar 91	90-12	90-12	89-26	90-06	14942
	Jun 91				90-22	0
Japanese Govt Bond Previous open interest: 604	Mar 91	96.18	96.40	96.10	96.33	183
	Jun 91					0
German Govt Bond Previous open interest: 74979	Mar 91	82.46	82.58	82.17	82.31	29984
	Jun 91	82.68	82.88	82.42	82.51	847
Three month ECU Previous open interest: 1280	Mar 91	89.42	89.43	89.36	89.37	151
	Jun 91	89.70	89.70	89.70	89.69	50

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

COMMODITIES

LONDON FOX

COCOA		COFFEE		SUGAR (FOB) C Czarnikow	
Mar	880-879	Jan	603-602	Mar	201.8-01.6
May	713-712	Mar	583-582	May	205.0-04.2
Jul	742-741	May	587-586	Aug	211.0-10.2
Sep	769-768	Jul	601-600	Oct	210.8-10.0
Dec	797-795	Sep	618-614	Dec	217.0-09.0
Mar	820-819	Nov	635-628	Mar	212.0-10.0
May	839-836	Jan	650-640		
Vol: 8234		Vol: 4320		Vol: 2365	

LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT Close (£/t)		BARLEY Close (£/t)		HI-PRO SOYA Close (£/t)	
Jan	118.50	Jan	112.00	Feb	112.0-11.0
Mar	121.40	Mar	114.60	Apr	114.5-14.0
May	124.95	May	116.90	Jun	115.0-14.5
Jun	127.00	Sep	106.65	Aug	116.0-15.5
Sep	108.90	Nov	109.15	Oct	117.5-16.5
Vol:	349	Vol:	210	Vol:	226

LONDON POTATO FUTURES

Volume: 328

	Open	Close
Feb (£/tonne)	86.0	85.0
Apr	126.0	123.8
May	145.3	142.0

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on January 11

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	75.19	145.35	108.55
(+/-)	+3.12	+0.81	+2.09
Eng/Wales:	75.19	144.50	107.66
(+/-)	+3.12	-0.30	+1.64
(%)	-7.5	+4.7	-14.9
Scotland:	n/a	149.37	113.92
(+/-)	n/a	+5.34	+2.22
(%)	n/a	-56.7	+23.2

* Estimated dead carcase weight

LONDON MEAT FUTURES

Live Pig (/kg)

Jan	
Open:	unq
Close:	94.5
Feb	
Open:	unq
Close:	94.0
Mar	
Open:	unq
Close:	95.3

Volume: 15

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day) Rudolf Wolff

	Cash	3mth	Vol
Copper Gde A (£/tonne)	1326.0-1329.0	1350.0-1351.0	808000
Lead (£/tonne)	314.50-315.00	329.00-325.50	36650
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1255.0-1259.0	1256.0-1257.0	75775
Tin ($/tonne)	5540.0-5650.0	5750.0-5760.0	7970
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1530.0-1531.0	1560.0-1561.0	298725
Nickel ($/tonne):	8800.0-8850.0	8200.0-8950.0	8976

LONDON OIL REPORTS (ICIS-LOR) - London 6.00pm:

Oil prices were largely unchanged awaiting further developments in the Gulf.

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	26.15	-0.15
Brent 15 day (Feb)	26.05	-0.15
Brent 15 day (Mar)	25.35	-0.20
W Texas Intermediate (Feb)	27.55	-0.05
W Texas Intermediate (Mar)	26.75	-0.10

PRODUCTS (Buy/sell $/MT) Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Gas 1.5	270 (-10)	275 (-10)
Gasoil EEC	268 (+3)	270 (-1)
Non EEC 1H Feb	263 (-1)	265 (-1)
Non EEC 1H Mar	244 (-6)	246 (-8)
3.5 Fuel Oil	140 (n/c)	142 (n/c)
Naphtha	283 (+5)	285 (+2)

IPE FUTURES

GAS OIL

Feb	248.50-48.25	Jun	210.50-09.00
Mar	233.50-33.25	Jul	unq
Apr	220.25-20.00	Aug	unq
May	215.00-13.00		

Vol: 7425

BRENT

Feb	25.95-26.05	Apr	24.80-24.70
Mar	25.25-25.35		

Vol: n/a

BIFFEX

GNI Freight Futures Dry Cargo ($10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Jan 91	1470	1455	1460
Feb 91	1495	1470	1479
Apr 91	1375	1350	1355
Jul 91	1062	1062	1062

Vol: 106 lots Open interest: 4107

Dry cargo index 1439 +7

FOX MGMI INDEX (5pm prices)

	Bid	Offer
Jan	159.00	160.00
Feb	160.00	161.00
Mar	161.20	162.25

Vol: 454

هكذا من الإصل

هكذا من الأصل

INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

	Nominal rate	Compounded at tax rates 25%	40%	Min/max investment £	Notice	Contact
BANKS						
Ordinary Dep A/c: Typical	3.50	3.60	2.90	none/none	7 day	—
Fixed Term Deposits: Barclays	10.13	10.13	8.10	25,000-50,000	1 mth	071-626 1567
"	9.58	9.98	7.98	25,000-50,000	3 mth	071-626 1567
Lloyds	9.36	9.35	7.49	2,500-no max	1 mth	Local Brnch
"	9.36	9.36	7.48	2,500-no max	6 mth	Local Brnch
Midland	8.75	9.75	7.80	10,000-no max	1 mth	071-260 2805
" " "	9.60	9.60	7.68	10,000-no max	3 mth	071-260 2805
NatWest	9.75	9.75	7.80	10,000-24,000	1 mth	071-726 1000
" " "	9.75	9.75	7.50	10,000-24,000	3 mth	071-726 1000
HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS						
Bank of Scotland MMC	9.47	9.90	7.92	2,500‡	none	031-442 7777
Barclays Prime a/c	9.50	9.84	7.87	2,500‡	none	0604 252891
Co-operative Ultra	8.00	6.20	4.98	2,500‡	none	071 626 6543
Girobank	8.00	8.00	6.40	1,000‡	none	051 986 2078
Lloyds HICA	5.50	5.80	4.50	500‡	none	0272 433372
Midland HICA	8.44	8.61	6.89	2,000‡	none	—
NatWest Special Reserve	8.00	8.24	6.59	500‡	none	071-374 3374
Royal Bank of Scot Prem A/c	8.95	9.28	7.41	2,500	none	031-558 8555
TSB (England & Wales)	8.25	8.25	6.60	2,000‡	none	071-600 6000
BUILDING SOCIETIES						
Ordinary Share A/c	6.15	6.15	4.92	1 min	none	—
Best buy — largest socs:						
Britannia	9.15	9.15	7.32	250 min	none	—
Portman	9.86	9.86	7.89	500 min	none	—
Cheltenham & Gl	11.50	11.50	9.19	2,500 min	none	—
Birmingham Mid.	11.74	11.74	9.40	10,000 min	90 day	—
Bristol & West	12.00	12.00	9.60	25,000 min	1 year	—
Best buy — all socs:						
Holmesdale Benf	10.40	10.40	8.32	500 min	none	—
Chelsea	10.75	10.75	8.50	10,000 min	30 day	—
St Pancras	11.30	11.30	9.03	3,000 min	60 day	—
Holmesdale Benf	10.93	10.93	8.73	500 min	90 day	—
Hendon	11.65	11.65	9.32	3,000 min	6 mths	—
Cash/Cheque Accounts:						
Halifax Card Cash	6.00	6.00	4.80	25 min		Rates rise
Alliance & Leicester	6.25	6.25	5.00	25 min		with larger
Nationwide Anglia Flex	4.50	4.50	3.00	1 min		balances

Compiled by Chase de Vere Moneyline - call 071 404 5788 for further details

	Nominal rate	25%	40%	Min/max investment £	Notice	Contact
NATIONAL SAVINGS						
Ordinary A/c¹	5.00	3.75	3.00	5-10,000	8 day	041-649-4555
Investment A/c*	12.75	9.56	7.65	5-25,000	1 mth	041-649-4555
Income Bond*	13.50	10.13	8.10	2,000-25,000	3 mth	0253 66151
Deposit Bond*☐	13.50	10.13	8.10		3 mth	041-649-4555
35th Issue Cert²†	9.50	9.50	9.50	25-1,000	8 day	091-3864900
Yearly Plan†	9.50	9.50	9.50	20-200/mth	14 day	091-3864900
General Extension Rate†	5.01	5.01	5.01			
Capital Bond	13.00	9.75	7.80	100-100,000	5 yrs	041-649-4555
GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS						
Hambro Guardian	10.40	10.40	8.84	5,000 min	1 yrs	Figures from
Financial Ass.	9.80	9.80	8.33	1,000 min	2 yrs	Chase de
Financial Ass.	9.85	9.85	8.37	2,000 min	3 yrs	for details
General Portfolio	9.75	9.75	8.29	1,000 min	4 yrs	071 404 5788
Consolidated Life	10.00	10.00	8.50	5,000 min	5 yrs	for details

		Holiday rates	£ buys
RPI (Oct. 89-90)	+10.9%	Spanish Pesetas:	179.30
Bank Base Rate	14.0%	French Francs:	9.69
Personal Loan	24.9%	Greek Drachma:	305.00
Credit Card	19.5-31%	Italian Lire:	2150.00

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¹ 2.5% for balances below £500, first £70 of interest tax free, Instant access for withdrawals of £100 or less ² Additional holdings up to £10,000 for investors re-investing proceeds of existing matured certificates †Tax free *Interest taxable paid gross ‡Higher rates for larger sums ☐ No longer on sale

LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest Rate %	Loan Size	Max %	Notes
BUILDING SOCIETIES				
Chelsea 0242 521391	12.90	£40K+	60	Rate after 1.6% reduction to 31.12.91
National & Provinc. 0274 733444	13.50	£60K+	95	Rate after 1% reduction
Yorkshire 0274 734822	13.60	£50K+	85	Rate after 0.9% reduction for 1st yr
BANKS				
Abbey National 0908 691122	13.65	£60K+	100	
OTHER (FINANCE HOUSE)				
Mortgage Trust 0306 75544	13.95	£20-350K	95	

Figures supplied by Blay's Guides Ltd: Telephone 0753 880482.

'Business as usual' vow as TSB finds buyer for Target

By SARA MCCONNELL

Sir Nicholas: £80 million extraordinary loss for TSB

THE 330,000 investors and policyholders in the troubled Target Group will not be notified that the group has been sold to Equity & Law, because both sides say it will be "business as usual" when the deal goes through in April.

A spokesman for the TSB, the current owner, said: "We see no need to inform investors. Target policies will be replaced by Equity & Law policies and sold through Target's 700 salesmen and Equity & Law's 1,300. Target policies in force will continue to be serviced. As we see it, these are two quality companies and all rights and benefits will be preserved."

TSB announced this week that it was selling Target, which it bought in 1987 for £227 million. In 1989 Target was valued at just £55 million and has since suffered "substantial losses".

Sir Nicholas Goodison, TSB's chairman, said the bank had suffered an extraordinary loss of £80 million on Target. It has been trying to find a buyer for more than a year.

Duncan Kerr, chief actuary at Equity & Law, said: "The three companies in the Target Group — Target Life, Target Trust Managers and National Financial Management Corporation — are owned by Equity & Law, but the policyholders will continue to have policies with Target or NFMC."

Under the deal, TSB will administer Target Life policies and manage Target's £1.4 billion funds, but it will be answerable to Equity & Law. The range of insurance policies sold by both company's salesmen will be streamlined so there is no overlap. All policies sold after April will be from Equity & Law. Unlike Target, it provides a choice of with-profits or unit-linked policies, as well as a permanent health contract.

All parties to the deal say it is too early to have made any decision on whether to merge their unit trust funds or unit-linked insurance funds. Mr Kerr said: "There will be no merging of funds for some time although it may seem as if there could be economies of scale." Nigel Brinn, Target's chief executive, declined to comment on any overlap between Equity & Law funds and those of his company.

But statistics in the specialist magazine *Money Management* show that the companies have funds largely in the same sectors. Target's funds almost always perform worse than Equity & Law's, and keeping all the funds running would be a costly operation. But Mr Brinn said there were no short-term plans to make any fund managers redundant.

Both companies have an overseas unit-linked insurance fund but Equity & Law's £34 million International fund has performed better than Target's International Equity fund. The Target fund has less than £1 million under management.

After five years £1,000 invested in Equity & Law's fund would be worth £1,404, higher than the sector average of £1,260. The same amount in the Target fund would have been worth just £998.

Unit trust figures for the two companies tell a similar story. Equity & Law's General fund, with £98.6 million under management, would have turned £1,000 into £1,669 after five years. Investors in the Target Equity fund, with £82.4 million under management, would have seen their money grow to £1,389, again lower than the sector average of £1,550.

Analysts say that if the demand for Target's funds shrinks because of uncertainty about their future and performance, this could lead to lower unit prices because fund managers will not be able to discount tax charges in the fund as they can if money moves freely in and out.

If Target's funds shrink, this could also mean higher fees for investors, analysts caution.

Target funds carry a 5 per cent up-front charge and a 1 per cent annual charge. Equity & Law's International fund has a 5 per cent up-front charge and a ¾ per cent annual charge, while the General fund has a 5 per cent up-front charge and a 1 per cent management charge. However, eight of Equity & Law's unit trusts have a 6 per cent up-front charge and one fund, Global Opportunities, has a 1.5 per cent annual charge.

Comment, page 38

Pep yields under threat

By BARBARA ELLIS

WHEN capital growth seems impossible, fund managers tend to fall back on high income to attract investors. After all, lower share prices mean higher yields if dividends hold. The tricky part comes when company payouts also appear under threat, as they do now.

Personal equity plans (Peps), with their exemption from income and capital gains taxes, seem the only share-based investments with a chance of rivalling current returns on high street deposits. But managers say this may not be easy in the year ahead.

A high income Pep launched this week by the Framlington Group is aiming for a yield of 1.5 times the gross yield on the FT All-Share index, starting at about 9 per cent. Charges are 5 per cent initially, 1.5 per cent annually and 0.2 per cent on dealing.

Williams de Broë, the broker, has £5.5 million under management in its Link high income Pep launched in September 1989. The plan yields about 10 per cent, with about 25 per cent of the fund in cash. Charges are 1 per cent initially and 1 per cent annually, but subject to a £75 minimum after April 6. The dealing fee is 1.9 per cent.

MIM Britannia holds up to ten equities in its high income Pep, presently yielding about 8 per cent. Its charges are 5 per cent initially, 1.25 per cent annually and 0.2 per cent on dealing.

COME INTO SOME MONEY?

Inherited wealth or a golden handshake can be as much a burden as a blessing.

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Historically, investments linked to the Stock Market have comfortably outperformed most savings accounts over the long term.

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EDITED BY LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

UNIT LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

	Bid	Offer	Chng	Yld
AETNA LIFE INSURANCE 401, St John Street, London EC1V 4QE 071-837 6494				
Life Funds				
Squirrel	14.82	15.39	+0.02	..
Bear	13.84	14.57	-0.05	..
Owl	13.74	14.47	-0.15	..
Bull	12.00	12.64	-0.14	..
Stag	11.70	12.32	-0.14	..
Gilt Edged	13.26		+0.08	..
Deposit	13.06		+0.02	..
Pensions				
Squirrel	18.30	19.27	+0.03	..
Bear	17.22	18.13	-0.05	..
Owl	17.48	18.40	-0.18	..
Bull	14.43	15.19	-0.18	..
Stag	13.74	14.47	-0.17	..
Gilt Edged	15.38		+0.07	..
Deposit	15.56		+0.03	..
Exempt App Mixed	158.0	161.3	-1.50	..
ABBEY LIFE 80, Holdenhurst Rd, Bournemouth BH8 8AL 0202 292373				
Property Fund Inc	271.8	286.2	..	..
Do Accum	441.8	465.1	-0.1	..
Equity Fund Income	111.4	117.3	-1.0	..
Do Accum	133.0	140.1	-1.1	..
Selective Fund	329.3	346.7	-1.8	..
Money Fund	298.7	314.5	+0.5	..
Prop Fd Ser 4	349.8	368.0	-0.1	..
Equity Ser 4	134.8	141.7	-1.2	..
Man Ser 4	403.8	425.1	-2.4	..
Conv Ser 4	265.1	279.1	+0.5	..
Money Ser 4	264.9	278.9	+0.5	..
Fixed Int Fd Ser 4	244.1	257.0	+0.6	..
American Ser 4	251.0	264.3	-2.2	..
High Inc Ser 4	429.4	452.1	-2.4	..
Indexed Inv Ser 4	153.7	161.8	-0.8	..
Japan Ser 4	249.7	262.9	-3.0	..
ALBANY LIFE 3, Darkes Lane, Potters Bar 0707 42311				
Equity Fd Acc	996.8	1049.2	-19.6	..
European Fd Accum	225.8	237.7	-5.9	..
Fixed Int Acc	372.8	392.2	+0.6	..
Gtd Money Fd Acc	271.2	285.4	+0.4	..
Intl Man Fd Acc	356.0	374.7	-3.8	..
Int Fxd Int Fd Acc	217.3	228.7	+0.5	..
Japan Fund	214.0	225.2	-2.8	..
Nth American Fd Acc	176.7	186.0	-4.6	..
Prop Fd Acc	333.2	350.7	+0.3	..
Multiple Inv Acc	672.8	708.2	-8.7	..
ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE Swindon SN1 1EL 0793-514514				
Fixed Int Dep Accum	303.5	319.5	+0.5	..
Equity Accum	834.5	878.5	-7.4	..
Property Accum	502.1	528.6	..	..
Far East Accum	164.6	173.3	+0.2	..
Managed Capital	359.4	378.4	-2.5	..
Do Accum	696.0	701.1	-4.4	..
Overseas Accum	585.3	616.2	-8.4	..
Gilt Edged Accum	335.7	353.4	+1.2	..
Amer Equity Accum	410.4	432.0	-5.7	..
Amer Man Accum	186.6	196.5	-2.1	..
Amer Prop Accum	114.9	121.0	+2.0	..
ABTRUST MANAGEMENT LTD 10 Queens Terral Aberdeen AB9 1QJ Freephone 0800 833 580				
International	185.8	195.4	-4.12	..
High Income	189.2	199.2	..	..
Income & Growth	264.7	278.6	+0.10	..
Basic Resource	115.0	121.1	..	..
American	160.9	169.4	-1.33	..
Japan & General	358.2	378.1	-9.81	..
Special Situations	220.1	231.7	+0.63	..
BARCLAYS LIFE 252, Romford Rd, London E7 9JB 081-534 5544				
Equity Accum	525.6	553.3	-4.8	..
Do Initial	398.3	419.3	-2.6	..
Gilt Edged Accum	258.6	272.3	+0.9	..
Do Initial	197.7	208.2	+2.4	..
International Accum	228.2	240.3	-2.1	..
Do Initial	173.3	182.5	-3.2	..
Managed Accum	333.6	351.2	-2.7	..
Do Initial	253.9	267.3	-2.0	..
Money Accum	235.3	248.9	+0.5	..
Do Initial	174.5	183.7	+0.2	..
Property Accum	272.1	286.5	..	..
Do Initial	205.2	216.0	-0.9	..
America Accum	141.4	148.9	-2.0	..
Do Initial	109.3	115.1	-1.5	..
Australia Accum	113.7	119.7	..	..
Do Initial	85.0	92.7	..	..
Financial Accum	203.0	213.7	-3.1	..
Do Initial	156.8	165.1	-2.5	..
500 Accum	264.3	278.3	-2.7	..
Do Initial	201.4	212.0	-2.0	..
Japan &Gen Acc 2	259.9	272.8	-5.1	..
Do Initial 2	196.0	206.4	-3.8	..
Income Accum	325.0	342.2	-2.5	..
Do Initial	250.0	263.2	-2.3	..
Leisure Accum	162.5	171.1	-2.8	..
Special Sits Accum	127.6	134.4	-1.0	..
Univ Tech Accum	84.2	88.7	-1.3	..
Do Initial	66.6	70.2	-1.0	..
BLACK HORSE LIFE Mountbatten House Chatham Kent ME4 4JF 0634 834000				
The Managed Fund	497.53		-0.53	..
Income Fund	497.3	523.5	-0.96	..
Extra Income Fund	445.3	468.7	-10.68	..
Worldwide Grwth Fd	300.2	316.0	-4.96	..
Balanced Fund	414.8	435.7	-1.89	..
Smlr Co's & Rc Fd	398.0	420.0	-15.09	..
Inv Technology Fund	280.5	295.3	-4.60	..
N Amer & Gen Fund	219.7	231.3	-3.06	..
Energy Int Fund	117.4	123.6	-3.65	..
Pacific Basin Fund	227.0	238.9	-4.56	..
German Growth Fd	153.1	161.2	-3.61	..
Japan Growth Fd	125.0	131.6	-3.72	..
The UK Gth Fd	136.7	143.9	-3.3	..
Cont Euro Gth	76.59	80.63	-1.80	..
Property Fund	302.2	318.1	+0.25	
Fixed Interest Fund	225.6	237.5	+1.68	..
Cash Fund	232.3	244.6	+0.34	..
Managed Inv Fund	310.3	326.6	-0.35	
Nth Amer Recov	114.2	120.3	-3.68	
CANADA LIFE 2-6, High St, Potters Bar, Herts P Bar 51122				
Equity Growth	177.2		..	..
Managed	209.6	220.7	-0.4	..
Property	174.5	183.8	-0.2	..
Gilt & Fixed Int	166.1	174.9	+0.5	..
Index-Linked	148.3	156.2	+0.9	..
Equity	228.7	240.8	-0.8	..
Cash	180.8	190.3	+0.2	..
Midland Bk UT	219.8	231.5	+3.9	..
Midland Bk Int	216.1	227.5	-1.9	..
CANNON ASSURANCE 1 Olympic Way, Wembley, Middx HA9 0NB 081-902 8876				
Equity Units	273.88		+0.01	..
Property Units	226.64		-0.01	..
Bal Bd Exec Unit	£40.35	42.70	-0.20	..
2nd Equity Accum	414.3	436.4	-0.1	..
2nd High Inc/Accum	392.6	415.4	+1.9	..
2nd Property Accum	261.1	276.3	-0.1	..
2nd Managed 2 Acc	132.7	140.5	-0.1	..
2nd Managed 4 Acc	132.0	139.7	-1.5	..
2nd Deposit Accum	231.6	245.1	+0.1	..
2nd Gilt Accum	214.4	226.9	+1.4	..
2nd Amer Accum	260.5	275.7	-9.2	..
2nd Intl Money Ac	195.9	207.3	-0.1	..
2nd Index Accum	141.8	149.8	+0.2	..
2nd Far East Accum	250.7	265.3	-2.5	..
2nd Global Accum	84.6	89.5	-0.9	..
2nd Euro Accum	106.6	112.8	-1.4	..
2nd Japan Accum	144.3	152.7	-2.9	..
2nd Heritage Acc	71.9	76.1	-0.1	..
2nd Intl Curr Bond	105.3	111.4	+0.1	..
2nd Strat Opp Acc	82.1	86.9	+0.7	..
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE Sentry House, 500, Avebury Blvd, Cntl Milton Keynes MK9 2LA 0908-606101				
Property Fund	216.1	227.5	..	..
Money Fund	308.4	322.8	+0.8	..
Managed Fund	391.9	412.5	+0.2	..
Equity Fund	222.2	233.9	..	..
Fixed Interest Fund	158.8	167.2	-0.2	..
Far East Fund	294.7	310.8	-4.2	..
Nth Amer Fund	76.2	80.3	+2.8	..
Nat Resources Fund	207.0	217.9	-0.7	..
CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INTERNATIONAL Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH 0272 290566				
Assurance Funds				
Sapphire Mixed	175.4	184.7	-2.2	..
Ruby	88.9	93.5	-1.5	..
Emerald	108.9	114.7	..	..
Equity	206.6	217.5	-2.5	..
Property	173.8	183.0	-0.2	..
Gilt & Fixed Int	144.1	151.7	+0.4	..
Indexed Secs	127.0	133.7	-0.9	..
Cash	150.9	158.9	+0.5	..
Nth American	104.3	109.8	-1.1	..
Far East	151.6	159.6	-4.9	..
International	125.2	131.8	-2.9	..
Special Sits	181.5	191.1	-3.3	..
Intl Income	182.2	191.8	-2.1	..
American Inc	100.3	105.6	-0.9	..
European	193.1	203.3	-5.1	..
Japanese	90.9	95.6	-3.9	..
SE Asia	143.3	150.9	-0.2	..
Home Inv WP Reg	119.9	126.2	+0.1	..
Home Inv WP Spec	119.9	126.2	+0.1	..
Flexible Retirement Plans Funds				
Mixed	181.0	190.6	-1.9	..
Equity	212.5	223.7	-1.8	..
Property	158.2	166.6	-1.1	..
Gilt & Fixed Int	160.5	169.0	..	..
Index Linked	136.3	143.5	-0.9	..
Cash	185.5	195.4	+0.5	..
Nth American	121.5	127.9	-1.1	..
Far East Acc	172.5	181.6	-4.6	..
International Acc	153.1	161.2	-2.1	..
Special Sits	236.0	248.5	-2.0	..
European Flex	242.0	254.8	-5.2	..
COLONIAL MUTUAL 24 Ludgate Hill, London EC4P 4BD 071-248 9861				
CML U Ass:Key	187.08		-4.21	..
CML U Ass:Pacemkr	220.66		-6.48	..
CML U Ass:Cash	169.1	178.0	+0.21	..
CML U Ass:Equity	354.2	372.9	-4.64	..
CML U Ass:FI	238.6	251.2	+3.87	..
CML U Ass:Mngd	265.1	279.1	-2.36	..
CML U Ass:Prop	274.5	289.0	-5.55	..
CML(Pen)Cash Cap	179.7	189.2	..	..
CML(Pen)Cash Inv	229.3	241.4	..	..
CML(Pen)Eqty Cap	984.3	1015.0	..	..
CML(Pen)Eqty Inv	£12.30	12.95	..	..
CML(Pen)Fxd Cap	264.4	278.3	..	..
CML(Pen)Fxd Inv	337.3	355.1	..	..
CML(Pen)Indx Cap	168.5	177.4	..	..
CML(Pen)Indx Inv	216.0	228.4	..	..
CML(Pen)Man Cap	396.3	417.2	..	..
CML(Pen)Man Inv	505.7	532.4	..	..
COMMERCIAL UNION St Helen's, 1 Undershaft, EC3 071-283 7500				
Var Ann Accum (5)	402.8		..	..
Var Ann (5)	72.64		..	..
Prime- Managed	242.9	255.7	-2.0	..
Prime- UK Equity	294.7	310.3	-2.0	..
Prime- Int Equity	181.4	189.9	-2.1	..
Prime- Property	198.1	208.6	-2.1	..
Prime- Fixed Interest	160.0	168.5	-0.5	..
Prime- Index-Linked	130.4	137.3	-0.5	..
Prime- Cash	167.2	176.0	+0.4	..
CONFEDERATION LIFE 50 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1HE 071-242 0282				
Managed Fund	748.2	787.6		
Equity Fund	£10.47	11.02		
PIP Fund	£31.962			
CROWN FINANCIAL Crown House, Woking GU21 1XW 04862 5033				
Life Managed Acc	367.7	387.0	-3.4	..
Life Fixed Int Accum	257.3	270.8	+0.1	..
Life Equity Accum	502.1	528.5	-5.2	..
Life Money Accum	245.2	258.1	+0.5	..
Life Inv Trust Accum	440.8	463.9	-7.9	..
Life Intl Accum	298.6	314.3	-4.8	..
Life High Inc Accum	450.1	473.7	-7.3	..
Life Property Accum	220.6	232.2	+0.1	..
Crown Brit Inv A	778.4	854.6		
[illegible] Equity	449.7	473.3		
CRUSADER INSURANCE Reigate Surrey RH2 8BL 07372 42424				
Measured perf	96.5	102.1	-1.2	..
Performance Plus	92.6	98.0	-1.8	..
With Profit Perf	132.4	140.1	..	..
UK Opportunity	119.9	126.9	-1.9	..
Euro Opportunity	118.7	125.6	-4.1	..
North Amer Opp	71.1	75.2	-1.5	..
Far East Opp	100.6	106.5	-0.7	..
Gth Prop Series 1	172.8	181.7	-1.2	..
Gth Prop Series 2	149.7	158.4	-2.0	..
Fixed Int	120.1	127.1	+1.0	..
Cash	128.9	136.4	+0.3	..
Managed Pens	350.9	387.1	..	..
Overseas	100.4	106.2	-1.2	..
EAGLE STAR INSURANCE Bath Road, Cheltenham, Gloucester GL53 7LQ 0242 221311				
Secure Fund	142.4	149.9	+0.3	..
Blue Chip Fund	156.0	164.3	-0.8	..
Do Series 2	98.0	103.2	-0.5	..
Adventurous Fund	126.4	133.1	-1.5	..
Do Series 2	92.0	96.9	-1.2	..
Performance Fund	147.9	155.7	-1.4	..
Do Series 2	93.0	97.9	-0.9	..
UK Pref Fxd Int	98.8	104.0	+0.1	..
UK Equity Fund	60.8	65.6	-0.8	..
Property Fund	97.9	103.1	-0.3	..
Envrnmnl Opps	90.4	95.2	-0.6	..
Euro Fund	90.9	95.7	-2.9	..
North Amer Fund	93.0	100.1	-1.8	..
Oriental Ops	95.1	100.2	+0.2	..
Japanese Fund	88.2	92.9	-1.6	..
Bsl & West Life			..	..
Bsl & West Pen	98.3	103.5	..	..
EAGLE STAR/MIDLAND 1 Threadneedle St, London EC2 01-588 1212				
Eagle/Midland Units	171.9	176.1	-1.0	4.60
EQUITY & LAW Amersham Road, High Wycombe 0494 463463				
Reserve				
Balanced (Mxd)	439.1	462.2	-7.6	..
Opportunity	94.3	99.2	-1.1	..
UK Equities	533.1	824.3	-11.8	..
Higher Inc	605.5	637.3	-12.6	..
North Amer	193.3	203.4	-4.5	..
Far East	305.1	321.1	-5.5	..
Europe	251.0	264.2	-7.3	..
Intnl	308.0	324.2	-5.2	..
Property	443.9	467.2	+0.2	..
Fixed Int	289.4	304.6	+0.2	..
Ind-Lnkd Sec	137.6	144.8	-0.2	..
G'teed Depst	235.8	248.2	+0.5	..
FRIENDS' PROVIDENT Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH 0722 413366				
Managed (Mixed)	188.2	198.2	-1.5	..
UK Equity	243.4	256.3	-2.0	..
Stewardship	208.2	219.2	-1.1	..
Overseas Equity	160.0	168.5	-2.3	..
North American	82.8	87.2	-0.8	..
Pacific Basin	83.6	88.0	-1.0	..
European	120.5	126.9	-2.3	..
Property	193.5	203.7	+0.1	..
Fixed Interest	143.8	151.4	-0.2	..
Index Linked	122.7	129.2	-0.7	..
Cash	160.5	169.0	+0.1	..
GT MANAGEMENT 8th Floor 8 Devonshire Square London EC2M 4YJ 071-283 2575				
GT Plan Bond Fund	182.6	192.3	..	..
GT Plan High Yield	274.7	289.2	..	..
GT Plan Far East	216.8	228.3	-1.5	..
GT Plan North Amer	149.7	157.6	..	..
GT Plan UK & GE	369.3	388.8	..	..
GT Plan Worldwide	246.4	259.4	-1.9	..
GENERAL ACCIDENT 2, Rougier Street, York YO1 1HR 0904 628982				
Managed	132.4	139.3	-1.0	..
Unitised with Profit				
UK Equity	175.3	184.4	-1.4	..
Fixed Int	141.1	148.4	+0.5	..
Index-Linked	124.6	131.1	-0.4	..
Cash Deposit	143.2	150.6	+0.2	..
Property	164.4	173.0	+0.2	..
International	115.0	121.0	-1.2	..
American	92.4	97.1	-1.1	..
Japan	162.5	171.0	-4.4	..
Japan Smlr Co's	166.4	175.0	-4.6	..
European	119.7	125.9	-1.9	..
Pacific Fund	113.4	119.3	+0.2	..
Conv Life	94.1	99.0	-0.2	..
GENERAL PORTFOLIO LIFE General Portfolio Hse, Harlow Essex CM20 2EW 0202 31971				
Portfolio Fd Acc	457.0		-3.9	..
Do Init	293.2		-2.5	..
Do Inv a	458.9	481.1	-4.0	..
UK Equity	250.7	264.0	-1.0	..
Smaller Cos	145.4	153.2	-0.5	..
Gilt Plus	149.4	157.4	+0.9	..
Do 86	142.7	150.3	..	..
Managed	194.7	205.1	-1.7	..
Inter Man	167.8	176.7	-2.0	..
GRESHAM UNIT 2-6, Prince of Wales Road, Bournemouth 0202 752000				
Managed Bond	459.9	484.8	-4.3	..
Money Fund	258.1	271.7	+0.4	..
Equity Fund	399.9	421.4	-5.1	..
Fixed Interest Fund	197.3	207.9	+0.3	..
Property Fund	315.1	332.0	..	..
Gresham Framlington				
American & General	223.0	235.8	-2.1	..
Income	435.9	459.3	-5.4	..
International Growth	292.3	308.6	-3.0	..
Capital Fund	361.6	381.2	-3.0	..
Recovery Fund	295.5	311.4	-2.8	..
Japan & General	201.5	212.4	-5.5	..
GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE Royal Exchange London EC3 071-283 7101				
Ass Prop Bds	686.5	718.2		
Managed Initial	305.4	321.5	-4.3	
Do Accum	606.6	638.5	-4.9	..
Fixed Int Initial	299.4	315.1	+0.7	..
Do Accum	391.0	411.6	+1.0	..
Intl Initial	275.6	290.1	-3.2	..
Do Accum	360.0	378.9	-4.0	..
Nth Amer Initial	96.9	102.0	-1.0	..
Do Accum	115.2	121.3	-1.1	..
Pacific Initial	151.6	159.7	-0.8	..
Do Accum	178.7	188.1	-0.6	..
Property Initial	181.9	191.5	..	..
Do Accum	237.5	250.0	..	..
Index-Linked Initial	130.6	137.4	-0.5	..
Do Accum	155.1	163.3	-0.5	..
Deposit Initial	171.8	180.8	+0.2	..
Do Accum	224.4	236.2	+0.3	..
Euro Initial	65.5	68.9	-1.6	..
Do Accum	71.9	75.7	-1.8	..
HAMBRO GUARDIAN ASSURANCE 41 Tower Hill London EC3N 4HA 071-702 6961				
Managed	107.7	113.3	+0.2	..
Do Pens	117.8	124.0	+0.7	..
UK Equity	98.1	103.2	..	..
Do Pens	101.9	107.2	..	..
International	86.8	91.1	-1.4	..
Do Pens	85.7	90.2	-1.3	..
Deposit	115.4	121.4	+0.2	..
Do Pens	126.9	133.5	+0.2	..
HENDERSON ADMINISTRATION 3, Finsbury Ave London EC2M 2PA 071-638 5757				
UK Equity Inc	277.3	292.7	-0.2	..
UK Capital Gth	262.5	277.1	+2.9	..
Global Equity	262.6	277.1	-3.7	..
North America Fund	191.8	202.5	-3.2	..
Far East Fund	306.8	323.8	-2.5	..
Managed Fund	288.3	304.3	-0.9	..
Deposit Fund	184.9	194.7	+0.3	..
Prime Residential	140.8	148.3	-0.7	..
European Fund	171.4	180.9	-2.8	..
Property Share Fd	120.2	126.8	..	..
HILL SAMUEL LIFE NLA Tower, Addiscombe Road, Croydon 081-686 4355				
Security Fund	325.6	342.5	-3.2	..
British Fund	335.5	355.1	-4.7	..
International Fund	298.5	316.2	-0.9	..
Dollar Fund	210.3	222.8	-2.0	..
Capital Fund	296.2	312.4	-2.7	..
Income Fund	436.8	462.3	-5.8	..
Property Series 'A'	370.4	392.0	..	..
Property Units	614.5	645.3	..	..
Financial Fund	302.9	320.6	-3.6	..
Managed Series 'A'	353.4	374.0	-2.4	..
Do 'C'	220.5	233.4	-2.0	..
Managed Units	625.4	658.4	-4.2	..
High Yield Fund	422.2	446.8	-3.2	..
Money Series 'A'	230.8	244.3	+0.4	..
Money Units	300.3	316.2	+0.7	..
Equity Fund	383.2	405.6	-3.6	..
Fixed Interest Fund	246.7	261.1	+0.6	..
Indexed Secs Fund	138.7	146.8	-0.4	..
European Fund	465.2	492.3	-2.0	..
Natural Res Fund	188.9	199.9	+1.1	..
Far East Fund	360.3	381.3	-2.4	..
Smaller Co's Fund	293.0	310.1	-1.1	..
Special Sits Fund	310.1	328.2	-2.6	..
Man Currency Fund	202.2	214.0	+0.6	..
Japanese Tech	187.0	197.9	-2.6	..
US Smaller Co's	94.3	99.8	+0.4	..
IRISH LIFE ASSURANCE Longbow House, 20, Chiswell St, London EC1 4TY 071-638 1731				
Global Managed 3	365.9	385.2	-0.2	..
Global Property 3	248.0	261.1	..	..
Global Fixed Int 3	357.5	376.3	+2.1	..
Global Equity 3	412.3	434.0	-0.3	..
Global Cash 3	173.1	182.2	+0.5	..
LAS GROUP 10, George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2YH 031-225 8494				
Managed Fund	213.0	224.2	-2.0	..
UK Equity	362.9	382.0	-4.8	..
Property	277.6	292.3	+0.1	..
Money Market	205.5	216.4	+0.4	..
Fixed Interest	233.9	246.3	+0.6	..
Japan	251.2	264.5	-3.7	..
North America	89.4	94.2	-0.8	..
International	189.2	199.4	..	..
European	158.7	167.0	-1.6	..
Far East	70.8	74.6	-0.2	..
Special Sits	70.2	73.9	-0.5	..
LAURENTIAN LIFE Barnwood Gloucester GL4 7RZ 0452 371371				
Managed	269.8	284.0	-2.1	..
Gtd Mgd	369.1	388.5	+0.1	..
Property	468.1	493.8	-7.2	..
American	225.7	237.6	-2.4	..
UK Equity Fd	283.6	298.5	-2.6	..
Japan	138.9	146.2	-3.0	..
Index-Lkd	142.9	150.4	-0.5	..
High Yield	519.6	546.9	-3.1	..
Gilt Edged	310.9	327.3	+1.5	..
Money	325.6	342.7	+0.5	..
International	237.0	249.5	-2.8	..
Henderson Active	132.0	139.0	-1.6	..
Perpetual Active	165.6	174.3	-0.8	..
Growth Cap	338.2	356.0	..	..
Do Acc	414.7	436.5	-3.1	..
LEGAL & GENERAL UNIT ASSURANCE 2, Montefiore Rd, Hove, Sussex BN3 1SE 0273 724586				
Bldg Soc Lnkd Init	124.1	130.7	+0.2	..
Do Accum	150.9	158.9	+0.2	..
Brit Opps Init	92.0	96.9	-0.9	..
Do Accum	101.5	106.9	-1.0	..
Cash Initial	152.3	160.4	+0.2	..
Do Accum	233.1	245.4	+0.4	..
Equity Initial	451.0	474.8	-3.2	..
Do Accum	690.0	726.4	-4.9	..
Fixed Initial	262.4	276.3	+0.6	..
Do Accum	401.6	422.8	+0.9	..
Index-Linked Gilt	111.5	117.4	-0.3	..
Do Accum	145.6	153.3	-0.4	..
Intl Initial	220.3	231.9	-3.0	..
Do Accum	331.9	349.4	-4.5	..
Managed Initial	330.6	347.9	-2.1	..
Do Accum	505.7	532.4	-3.2	..
Property Initial	195.1	205.6	+0.1	..
Do Accum	304.7	320.8	+0.2	..
LEGAL & GENERAL PROPERTY 11, Queen Vic St London EC4N 4TP				
LONDON LIFE 100, Temple Street, Bristol, BS1 6EA 0272 279179				
Equity	604.8		-6.3	..
Fixed Interest	273.9		+4.4	..
Property	358.4		-6.5	..
Deposit	284.7		+0.4	..
Mixed	398.8		-3.3	..
Indexed Stock	157.9		+0.4	..
International	175.5		-3.0	..
Equity A	141.2		-1.5	..
Fixed Int A	122.2		+1.9	..
Property A	158.9		-0.2	..
Deposit A	138.8		+0.3	..
Mixed A	131.9		-1.1	..
Index Stock A	124.4		+0.4	..
International A	110.4		-1.8	..
Equity P	455.2		-8.9	..
Fixed Int P	343.7		+5.0	..
Property P	274.9		+0.8	..
Deposit P	258.4		+0.7	..
Mixed P	335.8		-3.9	..
Index Stock P	179.5		+0.7	..
International P	184.9		-3.3	..
LON & MANCHESTER GROUP Winslade Park, Exeter EX5 1DS 0392 52155				
Inv Trust Cap	388.5		-2.8	..
Do Accum	599.6		-3.7	..
Property Cap	182.7		-0.1	..
Do Accum	261.8		-0.1	..
Fixed Interest Cap	164.7		+0.7	..
Do Accum	226.0		+1.2	..
Equity Cap	238.5		+0.1	..
Do Accum	329.9		+0.5	..
International Cap	170.5		-0.8	..
Do Accum	234.2		-0.9	..
Gtd Deposit Cap	183.6		+0.1	..
Do Accum	223.0		+0.3	..
Flexible Cap	270.7		-0.1	..
Do Accum	374.0		+0.1	..
Moneymaker Fund	504.5		+0.1	..
Capital Growth Fund	£10.257		+0.01	..
M & G Three Quays, Tower Hill EC3R 6BQ 071-626 4588				
Amer Bond Acc	226.4	237.9	-2.3	..
Amer Rec Bond	211.7	222.4	-6.3	..
Amer Smlr Co Bond	91.4	96.1	-2.7	..
Australasia Bond	99.7	104.7	-0.9	..
Commodity Bond	160.9	169.0	-0.6	..
Deposit Bond Acc	294.1	309.9	+0.1	..
Equity Bond Accum	833.3	875.1	-11.5	..
European Bond Acc	221.2	232.3	-3.2	..
Extra Yld Bd Accum	435.3	457.1	-4.9	..
Far East Bd Accum	137.6	144.5	-1.3	..
Gilt Bond Accum	302.0	317.2	+1.2	..
Gold Bond Accum	77.6	81.6	+1.8	..
High Yield Bond	245.4	257.7	-3.7	8.41
Index-Linked Gt Bd	180.2	189.3	-0.7	..
International Bond	422.1	443.4	-5.8	..
Japan Bond Acc	199.9	210.0	-3.5	..
Japan Smlr Co Acc	158.4	167.5	-8.4	..
Managed Bonds	489.2	513.8	-10.5	..
Prop Bond Accum	352.2	369.9	+0.2	..
Rec Bond Accum	424.0	445.4	-14.2	..
MGM ASSURANCE MGM Hse Heene Rd, Worthing BN11 2DY 0903 204631				
UK Equity Fund	174.4	183.6	-2.9	..
Do Accum	216.8	228.3	-3.6	..
Special Sits Fund	109.5	115.3	-2.3	..
Do Accum	136.2	143.4	-2.8	..
North American Fd	117.7	123.9	-1.1	..
Do Accum	146.4	154.2	-1.2	..
Pacific Basin Fund	237.3	249.8	-2.8	..
Do Accum	295.2	310.8	-3.0	..
Fixed Interest Fund	225.1	237.0	..	..
Do Accum	280.2	295.0	+0.1	..
Property Fund	167.1	175.9	..	..
Do Accum	208.0	219.0	+0.2	..
Deposit Fund	133.3	140.4	+0.1	..
Do Accum	166.6	175.4	+0.3	..
Managed Fund	186.9	196.8	-2.1	..
Do Accum	221.8	233.3	-2.6	..
MANUFACTURERS LIFE St Georges Way, Stevenage 0438 356101				
Managed Fund	475.5	500.5	..	..
Property Fund	478.9	504.1	..	..
Equity Fund	574.1	604.3	..	..
Gilt Edged Fund	419.5	441.6	..	..
Deposit Fund	267.9	282.0	..	..
Investment Fund	245.4	257.7	..	..
International Fund	329.1	346.4	..	..
MERCHANT INVESTORS Leon House, 233 High St Croydon 081-686 9171				
Property	492.2	518.1	+0.4	..
Equity Bond	211.5	222.6	-2.5	..
Money Market Bond	386.3	406.6	+0.6	..
Deposit Fund	302.9	318.8	+0.2	..
Managed Fund	321.5	338.4	-2.4	..
Intl Equity	316.4	333.0	-4.3	..
Intl Managed	311.5	328.0	-7.4	..
North American	121.4	127.7	+0.7	..
Far East	226.7	238.6	-4.9	..
Intl Currency	203.6	214.3	-0.8	..
NM UNIT TRUST MANAGERS Enterprise Hse, Portsmouth 0705 827733				
Equity	89.6	94.3	+0.1	..
Fixed Interest	379.0	398.9	+0.7	..
Managed	488.4	514.1	+4.0	..
Deposit	275.2	289.5	+0.4	..
Overseas	195.1	205.3	-2.2	..
Property	356.3	374.0	-0.3	..
American	233.8	246.1	-2.5	..
Australian	246.8	259.8	+0.9	..
European	328.4	345.6	-4.3	..
Gilt & Fixed Int	198.3	209.7	+0.6	..
Global Managed	97.3	102.4	+0.4	..
Income Accum	488.3	514.0	-0.3	..
Do Dist	343.1	361.1e	-6.8	..
International	197.3	207.6	-4.9	..
Japan Smaller	394.1	414.8	-10.9	..
Singapore & Mal	133.3	145.6	-9.3	..
Smaller Companies	274.0	288.4	+2.0	..
Tokyo Fund	375.7	395.4	-11.5	..
UK Equity	325.9	458.2	-3.7	..
CCM Varg'd Mgd	454.4	488.8	-6.0	..
Equity Pension Cap	821.9	854.5	-3.8	..
Overseas Pension	231.6	243.7	-4.0	..
NATIONAL PROVIDENT 48, Gracechurch St, EC3P 3HH 071-623 4200				
Managed	303.8	319.8	-2.6	..
UK Equity	379.5	399.5	-4.3	..
Overseas Equity	266.1	280.0	-3.1	..
American	211.8	223.0	-3.2	..
Far East	288.9	304.2	-2.8	..
Property	193.3	203.5	..	..
Fixed Interest	244.4	257.3	+0.8	..
NORWICH UNION PO Box 4, Norwich NR1 3NG 0603 622200				
Managed Fund	872.4	918.4	-7.8	..
Equity Fund	£18.25	19.21	-0.19	..
Property Fund (3)	544.4	573.1	+0.5	..
Fixed Int Fund (3)	418.1	440.2	+1.2	..
Deposit Fund (3)	276.1	290.7	+0.5	..
Unit Fund (3)	132.1	139.1	-2.0	..
Unit-Linked Plus	928.65		..	..
PEARL ASSURANCE Pearl Assurance Hse, Thorpe Wood Peterborough PE3 6SA 0733 63212				
Inv Prop Dist	150.7	158.7	+0.2	..
Do Accum	272.6	287.0	+0.2	..
Inv Equity	710.3	747.7	-9.5	..
Inv Managed	507.5	534.2	-3.1	..
Ret Managed	539.7	568.2	-3.0	..
PHOENIX ASSURANCE 4-5, King William St, EC4N 7ER 071-626 9876				
Wealth Assured	404.1	425.5	-2.8	..
Ebor Phoenix Equity	340.2	361.9	..	..
PROLIFIC LIFE & PENSIONS LTD Bridge Mills Stramongate Kendal, Cumbria LA9 4UB 0539 733733				
Managed Fund	488.1	519.3	-2.4	..
Cash Fund	271.6	286.3	..	..
Property Fund	220.0	234.1	..	..
Equity Fund	544.8	579.6	-3.7	..
Fxd Interest Fund	295.4	311.5	+0.4	..
International	260.0	276.5	-1.8	..
High Income	414.3	440.8	-1.5	..
Far East	307.4	327.1	-2.9	..
North American	194.5	207.0	-1.8	..
Special Sits	449.5	478.3	-6.6	..
Technology	190.1	202.3	-3.4	..
Extra Income Fund	242.9	258.5	+0.4	..
Gilt Fund 20	334.3	355.7	+3.2	..
European	86.9	92.5	-1.3	..
Adventurous Mgd	106.3	113.1	..	..
Secure Mgd	92.4	98.4	..	..
Equity Inc Dist	81.0	85.4	+0.4	..
Managed Dist	80.7	85.1	+0.6	..
PROPERTY GROWTH Leon House, Croydon CR9 1LU 081-680 0606				
Property Fund	443.2		+0.3	..
Property Fund (A)	419.7		+0.3	..
Agricultural Fund	838.2		-0.3	..
Agric Fund (A)	811.3		-0.3	..
Abbey Nat Fund	341.9		+0.3	..
Abbey Nat Fund (A)	366.7		+0.3	..
Investment Fund	218.0		-1.5	..
Investment Fund (A)	210.4		-1.5	..
Equity Fund	810.7		-8.8	..
Equity (A)	782.5		-8.4	..
Money Fund	373.5		+0.4	..
Money Fund (A)	360.1		+0.4	..
Actuarial Fund	377.0		-2.3	..
Gilt-Edged Fund	270.2		+0.5	..
Gilt-Edged Fd (A)	270.2		+0.5	..
Retire Annuity	880.4		..	..
Immed Annuity	280.5		..	..
International Fund	366.7		-1.2	..
Bldg Soc Life Fund	183.1		+0.2	..
PROVIDENCE CAPITAL 30, Uxbridge Rd, W12 8PG 081-749 9111				
Equity Fund Accum	194.8	205.3	-1.8	..
Fixed Interest Acc	165.5	174.6	+0.3	..
International Accum	146.3	154.4	-1.5	..
Managed Fund Accum	154.5	162.9	-0.8	..
Property Accum	223.8	236.1	+0.1	..
Money Accum	124.8	131.5	+0.2	..
Special Mkt Accum	117.6	124.1	-1.8	..
Japan Equity Acc	85.2	89.9	-2.1	..
N Amer Accum	81.0	85.5	-1.2	..
Pacific Accum	72.8	76.8	-0.5	..
Technology Accum	89.3	94.2	-3.1	..
Natural Res Accum	54.6	57.6	+1.5	..
European Accum	87.5	92.3	-1.9	..
PROVIDENT MUTUAL 25/31, Moorgate London EC2R 6BA 071-628 3232				
Managed Ord	311.5	327.9	-2.2	..
Managed Initial	238.3	250.8	-1.8	..
Equity Ord	454.3	478.2	-4.5	..
Equity Init	347.6	365.9	-3.6	..
Indxd-Lnkd Gilt Ord	151.6	159.6	-0.5	..
Index Linked Gilt Init	121.2	127.6	-0.4	..
Oseas Equity Ord	227.1	239.1	-2.5	..
Oseas Equity Initial	173.7	182.8	-2.0	..
Property Ord	214.6	225.9	+0.1	..
Property Initial	164.2	172.8	..	..
Fixed Int Ord	192.8	202.9	+0.3	..
Fixed Int Initial	147.8	155.6	+0.2	..
Deposit Ord	167.0	175.8	+0.3	..
Deposit Initial	127.7	134.4	+0.1	..
PRUDENTIAL Holborn Bars, EC1N 2NH 071-405 9222				
Managed	219.1	228.3	-3.6	..
PRUDENTIAL HOLBORN LIFE LTD 30 Old Burlington Street London W1X 1LB 071-439 3134				
Managed Fund	467.1	491.7	-5.0	..
Equity Fund	958.1	1008.6	-13.6	..
Intl Fund	308.2	324.5	-2.8	..
Fixed Interest Fund	397.3	418.3	+1.6	..
Property Fund	383.1	403.3	+0.8	..
Cash Fund	296.0	311.6	+0.3	..
Pacific Basin Fd	167.7	176.6	+0.4	..
N American Fd	109.4	115.2	-1.5	..
Euro Fund	158.8	167.2	-2.3	..
Balanced Fund	94.5	99.5	-1.1	..
Strategic Fund	95.8	100.9	-1.3	..
REGENCY LIFE ASS CO 55-57 High Holborn London WC1V 6DU 071-831 7481				
Series 2 Man Fund	271.5	287.4	-1.6	..
Series 2 Equity Fund	341.2	361.1	-1.4	..
Series 2 Prop Fund	378.9	401.0	-2.0	..
Series 2 Fix Int Fund	229.1	242.5	-0.5	..
Series 2 Money Fd	203.5	215.4	+0.3	..
Series 2 O'seas Fd	183.5	194.2	-4.5	..
Tulip Invest Fund	270.7	294.9	-8.0	..
ROYAL HERITAGE LIFE ASSURANCE LTD 20, Cliftons Street, London EC2A 4HX 071-920 0202 0733 282524				
Multi Growth (45)	456.1		+1.8	..
Multi Growth 'A' (45)	456.1	480.2	+2.0	..
Op 8 Prop	360.4	379.4	-2.3	..
Op 8 Equity	614.0	646.4	-7.4	..
Op 8 High Yield	387.3	407.7	+0.6	..
Op 8 Managed	476.3	501.4	-5.0	..
Op 8 Deposit	318.5	335.3	+0.8	14.00
Amer Smaller	77.7	81.8	-1.7	..
Extra Inc	124.4	130.9	-4.7	..
Far East	134.3	141.4	-0.2	..
Gold Gen	28.9	30.4	..	..
Inc Gth	223.5	235.3	+0.9	..
Japan Perf	189.3	199.3	-6.1	..
Japan Smlr	152.5	160.5	-7.0	..
Natl High	199.1	209.6	-0.6	..
Prop Shs	118.2	124.4	-2.0	..
Smaller Cos	160.9	169.4	-1.1	..
Managed Gth	166.6	175.4	-1.0	..
Gilt	71.7	75.5	+1.2	..
Amer (35,34)	120.8	126.9	-1.8	..
British	221.1	232.7	-3.9	..
Extra Inc	169.6	178.5	-1.6	..
Intl Fixed Int	82.7	87.1	+0.5	..
Global (35,34)	253.2	266.6	..	..
Gold Share	46.7	49.2	+1.4	..
High Income	227.4	239.4	-1.4	..
Income	283.8	298.7	-2.8	..
Japan	258.8	273.5	-7.0	..
UK Sel Opps	211.3	222.5	..	..
UK Smlr Co's	204.7	215.5	-1.7	..
Man Growth	281.1	295.9	-3.9	..
ROYAL LIFE INSURANCE New Hall Place, Liverpool L69 3HS 051-227 4422				
Royal Shield Fund	574.9	608.2	-8.8	..
Royal Life Unit Linked				
Managed Fund	233.7	245.9	-2.7	..
Equity Fund	317.9	334.6	-13.7	..
Property Fund	220.3	231.8	-1.2	..
International Fund	264.8	278.7	-3.2	..
Pacific Basin Fund	156.5	164.7	-0.5	..
United States Fund	105.7	111.2	-0.2	..
Gilt Fund	241.3	253.9	+0.2	..
SAVE & PROSPER 1, Finsbury Ave London,EC2M 2QY 0708 766966				
Bal Inv Fund	505.0	534.4	-2.8	..
Deposit Fund (2)	298.2	315.6	+0.3	..
Gilt Fund	346.7	366.9	+1.1	..
Global Equity Fund	144.3	152.7	-2.1	..
Property Fund (46)	79.3	84.0e	..	..
AG Bond Fund	113.7	120.4	-0.2	..
SCOTTISH AMICABLE 150 St Vincent St, Glasgow 041-248 2323				
Equity	387.8	408.3	-3.7	..
Fixed Interest	239.4	252.1	+0.9	..
International	242.2	255.0	-2.6	..
Property	229.7	241.8	..	..
Cash	186.8	196.7	+0.2	..
Managed	299.8	315.7	-2.1	..
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE 28, St Andrew Sq, Edinburgh EH2 1YF 031 556 9101				
Cash	144.4	152.0	+0.22	..
Index-Linked	119.9	126.2	-0.4	..
Fixed Interest	123.6	130.1	+0.1	..
Mixed	164.9	173.6	-0.9	..
UK Equity	162.5	171.1	-0.7	..
International	167.5	176.3	-1.7	..
American	130.1	136.9	-1.2	..
Japan	177.2	186.5	-0.9	..
European	184.2	193.9	-2.2	..
Pacific	190.5	200.5	-1.4	..
Technology	168.5	177.4	-0.9	..
Foreign Bd/Currency	148.4	156.2	+0.4	..
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS 19 St Andrews Sq, Edinburgh EH2 1YE 031-225 2211				
Property	176.6	186.0	+0.1	..
UK Equity	228.4	240.5●	-1.4	..
American	131.1	138.1●	-3.0	..
Pacific	183.3	193.0●	+0.9	..
European	275.0	289.5	-3.9	..
International	174.2	183.5	-1.5	..
Fixed Interest	157.8	166.2	+1.2	..
Index Linked	152.7	160.8	-0.6	..
Deposit	155.1	163.4	+0.3	..
Managed	178.6	188.1	-1.2	..
Worldwide	75.4	79.4	-1.8	..
Pan Worldwide	76.1	80.2	-1.6	..
SCOTTISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE 109 St Vincent St, Glasgow G2 5HN 041-248 6321				
Flex Fund (35)	£10.64	10.97		
SCOTTISH MUTUAL INVESTMENTS 109, St Vincent St, Glasgow 041-248 6321				
Safety Fund	156.9	165.4	+1.0	..
Growth Fund	151.1	159.1	-0.7	..
Opportunity Fund	151.1	159.1	-0.8	..
Cash Fund	141.0	148.5	+0.2	..
European Fund	215.2	226.6	-4.0	..
Gilts & Fxd Int Fund	132.3	139.3	+0.7	..
Index-Linked Fund	135.1	142.3	-0.8	..
International Fund	169.9	178.9	-2.2	..
North American Fd	131.3	138.3	-0.9	..
Property Fund	126.9	133.6	..	..
UK Equity	159.2	167.6	-1.5	..
UK Smaller	150.9	158.9	-0.3	..
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT 6 St Andrews Sq, Edinburgh EH2 2YA 031-556 9181				
Mixed	172.4	181.6	-1.2	..
Equity	177.4	186.8	-1.9	..
International	170.2	179.2	-0.8	..
Property	214.4	225.8	+0.1	..
Fixed Interest	153.5	161.7	+0.5	..
Index Linked	136.7	144.0	-0.2	..
Cash	154.0	162.3	+0.3	..
SCOTTISH WIDOWS PO Box 902, Edinburgh EH16 5BU 031-655 6000				
Inv Pol 1	829.5		..	..
Inv Pol 2	577.4	607.9	..	..
Inv Pol 3	556.5	586.0	..	..
Inv Cash	249.9	263.2	..	..
Mixed Fund	313.7	330.2	-1.6	..
Equity Fund	371.6	391.2	-0.8	..
Property Fund	224.1	236.0	+0.2	..
International Fund	296.5	312.1	-3.4	..
SKANDIA LIFE Frobisher Hse, Nelsons Gate, Southampton SO3 7BX 0703 334411				
Managed Accum	249.4	262.5	-0.9	..
Equity Accum	286.4	301.4	-0.9	
International Accum	209.7	220.7	-2.5	
Property	216.6	228.0	-2.1	
Royal Trust Mngd	154.9	163.0	-0.2	
STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO 3, George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2XZ 031-225-2552				
Cash	218.7	230.3	+0.4	
Equity	621.7	654.5	-6.6	
European	100.2	105.5	-2.3	
Far East	97.1	102.3	-0.7	
Fixed Interest	261.9	275.7	+0.1	
Index Linked	153.6	161.9	-0.6	
International	353.4	372.1	-5.7	
Managed	436.3	459.3	-4.7	
Nth American	87.4	92.1	-1.0	
Property	308.3	324.6	-2.1	
Pension Funds				
Cash	319.3	336.2	+0.8	
Equity	828.3	872.5	-9.8	
European	100.3	105.5	-2.3	
Far East	97.1	102.3	-0.7	
Fixed Interest	333.1	350.7	+0.1	
Index Linked	207.1	218.1	-0.7	
International	452.6	476.5	-7.9	
Managed	567.2	597.1	-6.3	
Nth American	87.4	92.1	-1.6	
Property	379.0	399.0	+0.3	
Stock Exchange	125.4	132.1	-1.5	
SUN ALLIANCE Sun Alliance Hse, Horsham, Sussex 0403 64141				
Managed Fund	413.2	435.0	-3.0	
Equity Fund	583.9	652.6	-6.2	
Fixed Interest Fund	290.0	305.3	+0.6	
Index Linked Fund	228.4	240.5	-0.8	
Property Fund	394.1	414.9	+0.3	
International Fund	355.7	374.5	-1.1	
N American Fund	108.6	114.4	-1.1	
Far East Fund	117.9	124.2	-1.0	
Deposit Fund	238.4	251.0	+0.3	
International Bond	£45.49		+0.19	
Worldwide Bond				
Worldwide Fncl	57.0	60.0	-0.4	
Worldwide Tech	66.8	70.4	-1.9	
European	97.4	102.5	-2.1	
SUN LIFE OF CANADA Basingview, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2DZ Dealing 0256-841414				
Growth Account	952.5		-27.7	
Managed Account	558.7		-5.4	
Equity Account	775.0		-7.6	
Mngd Fund Accum	262.4	276.2	-2.6	
Equity Fund Accum	346.0	365.3	-3.6	
Prop Fund Accum	246.0	258.8	-3.9	
Fixed Int Fd Acc	208.4	219.3	+1.6	
Money Fund Accum	177.5	186.8	+0.5	
Indx-Lnkd Scs Acc	158.5	166.9	+1.6	
Pers Pens Account	£11.28		-0.14	
Pens Mngd Account	524.7	552.4	-6.9	
Pens Guarantee	175.4	184.6	+0.4	
Pens Equity	199.1	209.6	-4.1	
Pens Property	205.3	216.2	-1.8	
Pens Fixed Int	178.9	188.3	+2.5	
Pens Intl	125.3	131.9	-2.6	
Pens Money	178.4	187.8		
Pens Indx-Lnkd	145.3	153.0	+0.5	
SUN LIFE UNIT St James Barton, Bristol BS99 7SL 0272 426911				
Managed Accum	546.6	575.4	-4.8	
Property Accum	300.5	316.3	-5.6	
Equity Accum	850.9	895.5	-9.1	
Fixed Int Accum	257.5	271.1	+1.6	
Index-Linked Accum	146.5	154.4	-0.3	
Cash Accum	250.5	263.7	+0.4	
Amer Equity Accum	196.9	207.3	-3.4	
US Bonds Accum	134.4	141.5		
Japan Accum	217.6	229.1	-3.0	
Pacific Accum	137.1	144.4	+0.2	
Far Eastern Accum	370.7	390.3	-2.1	
International Accum	232.7	358.2	-8.3	
US Dollar Accum	81.9	86.3		
Yen Accum	125.7	132.4		
Euro Cur Accum	128.2	135.0		
Distribution Fund	218.7	231.3	-0.9	8.19
European	111.6	117.5	-2.1	
TSB LIFE LTD Keens House, Andover, Hants SP10 1PG 0264 56789				
Managed Fund	180.9	190.5	-1.2	
Property Fund	165.8	174.6		
Fixed Interest Fund	151.6	159.6	+0.5	
Money Fund	161.4	170.0	+0.1	
Equity Fund	230.8	242.8	-2.0	
TARGET LIFE Target House, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury Bucks Aylesbury (0296) 394000				
American Eagle	90.8	95.6	-2.8	
Australian	17.8	18.8	-4.7	
Deposit	206.7	217.8	+0.3	
Residential Prop	90.2	95.0	-0.1	
Financial	170.7	179.7	-5.1	
Fixed Interest	247.8	260.9	-0.5	
Gold	56.6	59.6	-0.8	
Income	239.3	251.9	-4.6	
International Equity	237.3	249.8	-5.3	..
Japan	277.4	292.1	-7.8	
Managed	399.9	421.0	-7.6	
International Bond	86.3	90.9●	+0.3	
Managed Prop	142.0	149.5		
Pacific	209.0	220.0		
Preference	163.8	172.5	-2.9	
Property	267.3	281.4	-4.6	
Sterling	10.5			
UK Cap	156.1	164.4	-3.3	
UK Cap Pen				
World Income	167.4	176.3	-4.0	
Euro Situations	148.0	155.8	-4.1	
TYNDALL ASSURANCE 401, St John Street, London EC1V 4QE 071-837 6494				
3-Way Fund	361.8	381.8	-2.74	
UK Equity	222.2	233.9	-1.75	
N American Equity	167.9	176.7	-0.48	
Far East Equity	259.2	272.8	-1.79	
Fixed	204.8	215.6	+0.54	
Cash Deposit	165.9	174.6	+0.22	
Property	96.39	101.4	-2.83	
Special Opp	210.9	222.0	-1.50	
Managed	194.0	204.2	-1.64	
Index-Linked Fd	146.4	154.1	-0.27	

The prices in this

Equity investors keep their nerve despite threat of war

By SARA MCCONNELL

MOST investors are not being panicked into moving funds from equities into cash despite the threat of imminent war in the Gulf. Unit trust groups and brokers report that a small proportion have moved into cash but that most are staying put, waiting to see whether the United Nations' deadline on Tuesday is ignored.

Richard Twydell, marketing manager at Henderson Crosthwaite, the stockbroker, said: "Private clients have ducked their heads below the parapet and there is a marked reluctance to do anything.

"The Gulf is the major 'what if?' factor in the market. It is uncertainty which is creating a problem."

Investor helplines run by major unit trust groups such as Fidelity are advising people that they have three choices. They can cash their units in if they are concerned about the consequences for equities of a war in the Gulf or they can stay put. Otherwise, Fidelity suggests parking money in a cash fund.

Switching into Fidelity's cash fund is free of charge. The fund has a net yield of 10.75 per cent and a gross rate of 14.24 per cent. Investors switching back into an equity fund receive a 3 per cent discount on the initial charge of 5.5 per cent.

A Fidelity spokeswoman said that the cash fund had £63 million under management on January 1, up from £49 million on August 1, the day before the invasion of Kuwait. However, the increase was as much due to a 30 per cent slump in world stock markets during last year as to the Gulf.

She said: "The Gulf prompted people to move money into cash but confidence has not been helped by the economy. We haven't noticed an intensification of calls to our helpline."

Mercury Asset Management has seen steady sales of its cash fund which was launched last year. So far 1,600 unitholders have put in £19.9 million.

James Dawnay, chairman, said: "There has been nothing dramatic. We are encouraging people to put money into bonds rather than cash. If people do go into cash there is a worry that they might miss out on the rebound."

Save & Prosper also reports no significant inflows into its cash fund in the past week. The fund was launched last month and has so far attracted £2 million. Switching into the fund is free and switching back again will cost investors 3 per cent. The yield on the fund is 10.5 per cent net and 13.98 per cent gross.

Ken Emery, director of unit trust management and personal equity plans at Save & Prosper, said: "We haven't seen any significant changes in redemptions. People wanting to come out have already come out. A number of people are saying that as soon as uncertainty over the Gulf crisis is out of the way they will go in. Shares could be marked down and we sell a lot through independent advisers, who may think the markets look good value."

Brokers believe there is a pool of money that will move into the market after January 15, whether there is a war or not, because the uncertainty will have been removed. They give warning that people who have moved their funds into cash could miss out on a surge as institutional and private investors go on a buying spree.

Jamie Berry, managing director of Berry Asset Management, the independent adviser, said: "The worry is that people who come out into cash may not come back in at the right time and so miss out. We have not had anyone asking to switch into cash. The recovery, when it comes, will take everyone by surprise. The market moves so suddenly. We won't get six weeks warning."

He added: "Selling now with a view to buying back because the market will fall is risky, because it is not certain that there will be a big drop. This would probably only be triggered if the war was going badly."

The best time to buy unit trusts or shares is when markets are low and investors receive more for their money. However, brokers admit many investors are scared off by news of falls and paper losses and only gain confidence in the equity markets when they are rising.

Mike Otway, managing director of WI Carr Financial Services, said: "It needs a great educational process to persuade investors to go in when the market is low. But some more sophisticated investors are buying selectively, mostly in blue chip companies like Hanson and Glaxo."

Mr Twydell said that some clients were moving into safe stocks, including utilities like the electricity companies or the water companies.

He added: "There is a fear about a number of companies' ability to pay dividends, so people are looking at companies with good cash flow benefits and core business."

Some investors may also move back into gold trusts while prices are still low, after spectacular falls in the price of gold last year. Australian gold shares fell 39 per cent from their high last year, while Canadian gold shares fell 30 per cent and South African shares 55 per cent. Gold trusts invest in the shares of gold companies.

Julian Baring, manager of James Capel's Gold and General Trust, said gold prices were starting to climb again, with the price of gold shares up 11 per cent in Australia from its low a month ago, up 13 per cent in Canada and up 23 per cent in South Africa.

"It is perceived that gold has been low and it could go higher. People think of gold as something good to hold. Experience has shown that when the stock market is bad gold prices are sometimes good. But so far the gold price has not moved enough to attract the public. Most gold funds are liquid and the gold price is disappointing."

However, Mr Baring stressed that gold unit trusts are equities and suffer falls in the same way as the rest of the market. The latest unit trust performance statistics from Micropal show that, over five years, investors in gold funds would have sustained some of the worst losses in any sector. Target Australian, which invests in gold companies, is down 82 per cent.

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M&G Recovery Fund buys shares of companies which have fallen on hard times. Losses must be expected when a company fails to recover but the effect of a turnround can be dramatic.

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The price of units and the income reinvested may fluctuate. As you can see from the table, the value of your investment can go down as well as up.

Value of £40 a month invested from the launch of M&G Recovery Fund.

Year ended 31 December	*Amount Invested*	Building Society	M&G Recovery
23 May 69	*£40*	£40	**£40**
1969	*280*	285	**304**
1970	*760*	792	**776**
1971	*1,240*	1,324	**1,924**
1972	*1,720*	1,883	**3,187**
1973	*2,200*	2,504	**3,118**
1974	*2,680*	3,196	**2,434**
1975	*3,160*	3,930	**4,825**
1976	*3,640*	4,709	**5,430**
1977	*4,120*	5,542	**12,536**
1978	*4,600*	6,402	**16,128**
1979	*5,080*	7,458	**19,831**
1980	*5,560*	8,757	**23,260**
1981	*6,040*	10,084	**27,690**
1982	*6,520*	11,494	**26,796**
1983	*7,000*	12,843	**38,694**
1984	*7,480*	14,357	**51,572**
1985	*7,960*	16,135	**65,543**
1986	*8,440*	17,910	**97,702**
1987	*8,920*	19,798	**122,427**
1988	*9,400*	21,713	**145,130**
1989	*9,880*	24,267	**178,404**
31 Dec 1990	*10,360*	27,422*	**145,066**

Notes: All figures include re-invested income net of basic rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on the average rate of a Building Society Share Account (Source: Central Statistical Office – Financial Statistics)
M&G Recovery figures are all realisation values. An investment of £40 a month in M&G Recovery Fund from 31st December 1985 (£2,400) would have grown to £2,556 by 31st December 1990 with net income reinvested.
*Estimated using current interest rate levels.

FURTHER INFORMATION

On 31st December 1990 the offered price for Accumulation units was 38.9p and the spread between the 'offered' price and the 'bid' price was 5.40%.

The prices are calculated as at 9.15 am each business day. Prices and yields appear daily in the Financial Times. The spread is the difference between the 'offered price' (at which you buy units) and the 'bid' price (at which you sell). We have a discretion to vary the pricing basis of the units and also the spread within a range, calculated in accordance with statutory regulations. An initial charge of 5% is included in the offered price. The Manager's annual charge is 1%. The Manager's annual charge, Trustee's fees (currently 0.05% plus VAT) and Registrar's fees (currently 0.08% plus VAT) based on the fund's mid-market value are deducted from gross income pro-rata on the first day of each Stock Exchange Account. There are no extra charges for the Savings Plan. Your Savings Plan subscriptions go into accumulation units of the fund at the price ruling on the close of business following receipt of payment. Income net of basic rate tax is automatically reinvested to increase their value. Higher-rate taxpayers will have a further liability to tax. Non taxpayers can reclaim the tax credit from the Inland Revenue.

Capital gains tax 1990/91. An individual's first £5,000 of realised capital gains is exempt from tax. Gains in excess of £5,000 are added to the individual's other income and taxed at the rates of tax applicable. Gains arising before 31st March 1982 are not now subject to capital gains tax and gains since *31st March 1982 are subject to indexation relief.*

You can buy or sell units on any business day by written instruction. When you realise your holding you will normally receive a cheque within a few days. The Trustee for Recovery Fund is Barclays Bank Trust Co Limited. The Fund is a wider-range investment and is authorised under the Financial Services Act 1986.

Scheme Particulars and the Rules of the Plan will be sent on receipt of your application. However, if you would like the Scheme Particulars, the Rules of the Plan or the most recent annual and half-yearly reports, before investing you can obtain them free of charge from: M&G Securities Limited, M&G House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford CM1 1FB. Tel: (0245) 266266.

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Initial subscription by cheque made payable to M&G Securities Limited (You may wish to start your plan with a lump sum) £ ·00
AND/OR
Monthly subscriptions by Standing Order instruction (completed below) minimum £40 per fund. £ ·00
The units will be registered in the name of M&G Securities Limited and held for your account under the Rules of the Plan, a copy of which is available on request. In entering into this contract you will not have any right to cancel under the Financial Services (Cancellation) Rules 1989. The operation of your account will be subject to the Rules of the Plan.
Signature Date

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STANDING ORDER INSTRUCTION Please complete **parts 1 to 4** to instruct your bank to make payments directly from your account.
Then return the form to, M&G Securities Limited, M&G House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford CM1 1FB.

1 CLIENT DETAILS The Manager BANK/BUILDING SOCIETY
[illegible]
Bank sort code ☐☐-☐☐-☐☐ PERSONAL ACCOUNT NO ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ Name of your account
2 Please pay to National Westminster Bank Plc, 191 Moulsham Street, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 0LN. (Branch Code 60-05-46). Account No 55713270.
3 The sum of £ ·00 on the ☐ day of ☐ 19☐ and continue to pay that amount on the ☐ day of each month until further notice
for the credit of M&G SECURITIES LIMITED (SAV ACCOUNT) QUOTING REFERENCE (leave blank) ALPHA NUMERIC
4 Signature 1 Date Signature 2 Date

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Amount Invested	Net*	Net C.A.R.**
£25,000 +	10.75%	11.30%
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£2,500 +	9.75%	10.20%
£1,000 +	7.50%	7.76%
up to £1,000	6.50%	6.70%

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To Kathleen Milne, Retail Banking, Northern Rock Building Society, FREEPOST, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 1BR.
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هكذا من الأصل

LETTERS

Tessa will fan fires of inflation

From Mr Terence Evans

Sir, Government failure to recognise asset inflation in the private sector is now accepted as the most important single cause for the recent high inflation and the inevitable recession which followed.

Preferential treatment of house owners through distortion of the tax system, with concessions in both income and capital gains tax, when coupled with a liberalisation of the banking system, led to annual increases in property prices which exceeded the total income of the nation. The results of this policy, combined with the methods of funding industry, has had a disastrous effect on the UK economy and manufacturing in particular.

The widely publicised Tessa tax free investment has been introduced to encourage saving and help solve this problem. Will it do so?

Unfortunately, most savings in Tessa will go directly into building societies and fuel borrowing in the housing market.

What the country needs is investment in industry not another surge in property prices.

Yours faithfully,
T.E. EVANS,
43 Newnham Street,
Ely, Cambridgeshire.

Hendon merger

From Professor Geoffrey Alderman

Sir, Hendon Building Society members are being offered a "bonus" of 5 per cent to vote for a merger with the Bradford & Bingley. But the net cost — £1,277,000 — will fall upon our own funds, as the literature sent to investors makes clear. As to the reasons why the Hendon board is recommending the merger, the literature is very unclear. The financial position of the Hendon society is extremely good. Its liquidity position is over 10 per cent better than the Bradford & Bingley's, and its profitability in the first six months of 1990 was also greater in percentage terms.

I can well understand why the Bradford & Bingley has its eyes on the Hendon, but for Hendon investors there is absolutely nothing to be gained beyond a short-term windfall. We can be sure that at the end of 12 months, the interest rate differentials presently enjoyed by Hendon investors will disappear.

The literature we have been sent by the Hendon board is extremely partial. It spells out the short-term benefits in red ink, but is silent on the long-term disadvantages.

The proposed merger will be extremely detrimental to Hendon investors, and I sincerely hope that the majority of them will join me in voting against it.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY ALDERMAN,
Wit's End,
172 Colindeep Lane,
NW9.

Advice post-haste

From Mr Chris Day

Sir, I note that my bank, National Westminster, which sends out statements I request by second class mail, has used first class mail to ensure that unsolicited investment advice arrived with my privatisation refund cheque.

Yours faithfully,
CHRIS DAY,
18 Swanswell Drive,
Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire.

● Letters are welcomed, but *The Times* regrets it cannot give individual replies or advice. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice or statements in these columns and independent professional advice should be sought.

Stamps went up same time as the shares so I've just about broken even.

Share dealing costs

From Mr P.J. Bishop,

Sir, If the prime minister, as you report, really wishes to extend share ownership he must do something drastic about the high cost of dealing in small amounts.

Why cannot a Post Office register of 100 leading shares be set up, similar to that currently used for small gilt-edged transactions? Make a dealing charge of, say, ½ per cent. This subsidy would be financed by the capital gain which would accrue on the "float" of stock which the Post Office would hold to operate the scheme.

If you say there might be no capital gain, what is the point of extending share ownership?

Yours etc,
P.J. BISHOP,
Fimdale House,
Grundisburgh,
Woodbridge,
Suffolk.

Mortgage rates

From Mr D.E.L. Rees

Sir, Is there not an obvious causal relationship between the escalating mortgage interest rates of 1988 and the subsequent inflationary wage demands which have led us to our present economic difficulties?

As we look towards closer financial links with Europe, would it not be sensible for us to also follow the European practice of lending for house purchase over long terms at fixed rates of interest? Perhaps a shift in emphasis on mortgage tax relief could favour such loans.

The varying mortgage interest rates create problems in two directions, both inflationary pressure on wages, and then when rates reduce, an increase of disposable income which will often be channelled towards imported consumer goods. Building societies may say that they have to compete in the open market for their funds, but surely many small investors favour the savings accounts for their security and access, rather than the rate of return?

As long as interest rates are used to govern the economy, I would find it hard to believe that Britain will ever be able to break out of its inflationary cycle as the man in the street finds that his income oscillates wildly as his mortgage rides the switchback.

Yours faithfully,
D.E.L. REES,
Highfield Cottage,
Old Rectory Lane,
Winchester, Hampshire.

Vouchers fool counterfeiters

From Mr John Broadhurst

Sir, In response to Mr Kenneth W. Winfield's letter to Weekend Money (December 29) to my certain knowledge the vast majority of gift vouchers issued by nationally known retailers are printed either by ourselves (who are accredited by the Post Office, the Crown Agents, HMSO etc) or by one of a small group of competitors, who are similarly checked and recognised.

Any of us would recommend potential customers for gift vouchers to allow us to incorporate security "ingredients", and nearly all accept this suggestion.

There may be but one, or half a dozen such features in any voucher, none of which is necessarily discernible to the untutored eye, but which nevertheless pose a hazard for the would-be counterfeiter.

Every single day there are tens of thousands of security printed documents issued, ranging from car tax discs to postage stamps. Those involved in printing and distributing them, being well aware of the attendant dangers, take appropriate precautions, which are not always obvious.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BROADHURST,
Sales Director,
Walsall Security Printers Ltd,
PO Box 26,
Midland Road,
Walsall, West Midlands.

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Fidelity Investments

BRIEFINGS

LLOYDS Bank has improved its discount for first time home buyers to 1.75 per cent from 1.5 per cent. Existing homeowners are also being offered a 0.5 per cent discount. The discounts will operate until the end of March next year. The first timer rate is reduced to 13.05 per cent cutting the monthly repayments on a £30,000 loan by £32.81. To qualify borrowers have to take out a Black Horse endowment or pension policy and Lloyds Bank buildings insurance.

☐ The Newcastle Building Society is offering a discount of 1.25 per cent until next January to all first time buyers. This currently gives a rate of 13.25 per cent.

☐ A tranche of £50 million has been set aside by First Mortgage Securities to offer fixed rate mortgages. A two year step down rate of 12.95 per cent in the first year and 11.95 per cent in the second year until December 1992 has a 1 per cent discount for mortgages under £75,000 for both years. FMS is also offering a fixed rate mortgage at 11.95 per cent for five years through brokers, such as John Charcol.

☐ UCB Home Loans Corporation is offering a fixed rate mortgage at 12.6 per cent, which works out at an annual percentage rate of 13.6.

☐ Barnetts, the Merseyside solicitor, has launched a scheme that guarantees to keep remortgages down to a maximum of four weeks.

☐ Holders of 25 year £30 a month Norwich Union with-profits policies maturing this year will receive 5 per cent more at £63,237 than last year. The payout on a similar 15 year endowment is up 1 per cent at £20,498. Ten year policies have had their terminal bonuses cut and are down 3 per cent at £8,241. Reversionary bonuses were unchanged at 5 per cent.

☐ Guardian Royal Exchange will continue to pay 6.8 per cent reversionary bonuses on endowment policies and 7.05 per cent on whole of life policies. Terminal bonuses are cut on 25, 15 and 10 year policies. A 25 year £30 a month policy will pay £46,345 this year compared with £47,935.

☐ Terminal bonuses on 10 and 15 year policies from Clerical Medical have been cut, although holders of 25 year policies will receive more than last year. Total payout on a 10 year policy will be £8,033 compared with £8,464 last year while total payout on a 15 year policy is £18,637, down from £18,691 last year. The payout on a 25 year policy is up from £60,260 to £61,789.

☐ Barclays Bank has set up a retail stockbroking firm, Barclays Stockbrokers. It will encompass all the products and services provided by Barclayshare and Barclays Broker Services.

☐ Co-operative Bank Financial Advisers has introduced a winter sports insurance package costing £28.83 for a typical two week trip to the Alps. It covers loss, theft or damage to ski equipment up to £400 and up to £150 to hire skis following such loss or damage. The cost of transportation to other ski sites is also covered.

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Portfolio

PLATINUM

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's *Portfolio* price changes (today's are on page 32).

Share No	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Weekly Total
1	+4	+5	+2	+4	+2		
2	+2	+2	+3	+8	+4		
3	+3	+2	+1	+4	+2		
4	+3	+7	+2	+3	+2		
5	+2	+1	+1	+5	+2		
6	+4	+1	+4	+6	+4		
7	+4	+1	+1	+7	+1		
8	+4	+5	+1	+3	+2		
9	+2	+1	+1	+5	+1		
10	+2	+2	+1	+4	+2		
11	+5	+2	+1	+5	+2		
12	+1	+2	+2	+4	+2		
13	+3	+1	+1	+5	+1		
14	+3	+3	+3	+6	+5		
15	+5	+6	+2	+4	+1		
16	+1	+1	+1	+3	+1		
17	+4	+6	+3	+5	+1		
18	+2	+1	+1	+4	+1		
19	+4	+2	+4	+7	+3		
20	+4	+5	+2	+3	+1		
21	+2	+1	+2	+3	+1		
22	+2	+2	+3	+8	+3		
23	+3	+1	+1	+6	+2		
24	+3	+1	+4	+7	+2		
25	+5	+5	+3	+5	+1		
26	+2	+1	+2	+3	+1		
27	+3	+2	+2	+5	+1		
28	+3	+3	+5	+7	+5		
29	+4	+4	+3	+4	+1		
30	+3	+2	+5	+8	+4		
31	+3	+1	+1	+4	+1		
32	+3	+3	+5	+6	+5		
33	+2	+1	+1	+6	+2		
34	+3	+4	+2	+4	+1		
35	+4	+5	+1	+5	+1		
36	+2	+1	+1	+4	+3		
37	+4	+1	+4	+6	+3		
38	+3	+1	+1	+4	+2		
39	+2	+1	+1	+5	+1		
40	+2	+1	+1	+5	+2		
41	+5	+4	+2	+3	+1		
42	+3	+2	+1	+4	+1		
43	+2	+1	+2	+5	+4		

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Experts fail to lead by example

COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

The total loss of £227 million in four-and-a-half years by TSB on its investment in Target Group seems careless by any standards. It is an even bigger disaster than that suffered by Target's investors in its Australian unit trust over a similar period.

Neither are happy stories and must make the 1.5 million shareholders and the 330,000 Target investors wonder how the professionals can get it so wrong. Target investors who put £1,000 into the Australian fund five years ago have just £186 to show for it. TSB has lost all its initial investment in Target and could face further losses if the mortgages and other loans made to Target clients turn sour.

The Target property fund is another lamentable story. The managers could not pour their money into the market fast enough when it was rising and then could not pull it out when investors wanted to make withdrawals.

TSB rushed into its purchase of Target in 1986 in preparation for the Financial Services Act. Target, with its up-market clients, was supposed to give the working class TSB access to this market. But the 1987 crash and the act got in the way. The very clients that Target expected to sell its products to were the sophisticated investors who deserted them for the products of household name companies.

Brokers keen to follow the new law to the letter could not recommend Target products without risking investigation for not giving the best advice.

The flight to quality left Target behind. Brokers anxious to be seen to give appropriate advice opted for the large investment houses topping the performance tables. Target sales, therefore, were largely confined to tied agents, who were not always controlled as well as they ought to have been, bringing the Target name into further disrepute.

There is a tiny jot of comfort for TSB in the fact that it is not alone. Prudential Assurance bought a chain of 500 estate agencies at the top of the property market to give it a presence in the high street and the opportunity to sell more policies. In November, the largest insurer announced the agencies were up for sale. The total cost of the foray could be close to £400 million, plus the damage to its investment reputation. Investors and brokers are long likely to remember such catastrophic mistakes.

On a smaller but equally inept scale are the losses faced by two other insurers. Last summer General Accident and Commercial Union each bought a 4.9 per cent stake in the failed Levitt Group for £7.35 million. The broker crashed in December with debts of almost £40 million. Again the insurance companies had been eager to bolster sales of their products and had bought stakes in the hope they would obtain more business from Levitt clients as a result.

The lesson to be learned in all the cases is that investors cannot be bought wholesale. Nor are they always as easily fooled as the investment houses.

Their faith in the investment experts must have suffered another setback. It has always been the lament of investment salesmen that the public pile into the market lemming-like at the top and then get out at the bottom. This is the example set to them by the professionals who expect the public to entrust their money to them.

Marked card

Nine million Barclaycard customers should note that it is the computer and the Post Office that always seem to get the blame when things go wrong.

The credit card company must have expected a large number of returned cards and closed accounts last summer when it introduced an £8 annual fee and ought to have introduced a system that could cope with it.

Lloyds Bank had lost 600,000 Access customers earlier in the year so it can hardly have come as a surprise that the much larger Barclaycard would lose more than half a million active accounts. The company generously promised a refund of the annual fee to anyone who closed their account within a year, but it appears to have forgotten to tell the computer. The machine merrily continued to send statements demanding payment of the fee and interest accruing on it for months after it had acknowledged by letter that it had received the card.

But most serious of all is the ease with which an impeccable customer can be threatened with credit blacklisting. It automatically happens after 90 days. The computer writes a little message in the space usually allotted to urging customers to spend more and earn Profile points.

On this occasion the tone is not very different but no customer could afford to ignore the message. The company maintains that as soon as one of its employees had seen details of the account, the mistake would have been sorted out. It also says that two pieces of mail involving one customer went astray.

This is hardly reassuring for its remaining customers, who must worry that a message about a potential default notice might be sent when they are away on holiday or on business.

Revenue pays rent to zone investors

THE board of the Inland Revenue and HM Customs & Excise are to rent an office building in Dundee bought by investors in Scotland's first enterprise zone trust (EZT).

The Greig Middleton Enterprise Zone Trust, launched by Greig Middleton, the broker, gives investors shares in the freehold of the £10.6 million Caledonian House, which is in an enterprise zone redevelopment managed by the Scottish Development Agency.

Higher rate tax payers investing a minimum of £5,000 will be able to claim tax relief at 40 per cent. People can also take out loans to finance up to 100 per cent of the investment through the Royal Bank of Scotland and obtain tax relief at 40 per cent on the interest.

Marshall: yield

Valerie Marshall, a director of Greig Middleton, said the building had been pre-let to the Inland Revenue and Customs & Excise with upward-only rent reviews every five years. If local rents do not go up, the rent paid to investors stays the same with a nominal £1 added. The yield on the investment depends on the rental income investors receive. Initial rental income per year is £823,711. On a gross investment of £100,000, the annual rent income would be £7,700, a net yield of 7.7 per cent.

Mrs Marshall said: "The EZT is inappropriate for anyone wanting to invest for less than five years. It is possible to come out after five years if more than 51 per cent of the investors agree. There is a deliberate vote on whether to come out after five years, then every year."

SARA McCONNELL

Insurers prepare to crack down on repeated claims for storm damage

HOMEOWNERS who have just suffered their second or third bout of storm damage should take care before claiming on their insurance policies. While insurance companies will pay the cost of genuine weather damage, however many claims policyholders make, insurers scrutinise frequent claims more carefully.

Philip Dell, underwriting manager with Sun Alliance, said: "If someone has had a lot of claims we might appoint a loss adjuster to investigate more quickly. We have a duty to our other policyholders to investigate those people who have a lot of claims."

Many insurers have already decided to increase premiums for buildings policies this year from £2 to £2.20 for every £1,000 insured, to cover the cost of last winter's storm damage.

Some would like to have raised the figure even higher and companies may refuse to pay claims for what they consider are really routine house repairs.

Heavy weather: insurers have been deluged by claims

If they suspect a property requires a lot of repair because it has not been properly maintained they can penalise the owner.

As household insurance is an annual policy, companies can refuse to renew when the next premiums fall due. It will then be difficult to obtain cover from another company because application forms ask if the property has previously been rejected by an insurer.

But refusing insurance is an extreme penalty that is rarely exercised. More likely they will ask policyholders who make frequent claims to pay an excess, perhaps the first £50, up to £250, of all future claims.

Someone who suffers several burglaries may be asked to fit better locks.

Leslie Hill, personal insurances underwriter for Eagle Star, said: "If someone has a number of storm losses that don't fit the pattern of the major events which everybody in the area suffers, we would probably investigate to see if there was a particular problem."

When companies are examining a claim, they take other factors into account as well as the number of claims.

Mr Hill said: "With any claims we look at the length of time we have had the policy and the claims experience over the period. Someone may have one bad year after ten years without a claim. We look at the cost of the claim against the premiums we have taken in."

MARGARET DIBBEN

Banks and societies court Tessa's hand

PROVIDERS of less than competitive tax exempt special savings accounts (Tessas) have had to take remedial action this week to stop money being withdrawn and deposited with rivals. A number of savings institutions that had held back from offering a Tessa have also launched in the face of competition.

Abbey National will increase its Tessa rate from 13.8 per cent to 15 per cent. Midland Bank will increase its rate by 1 per cent to 14.5 per cent on Monday, as will Firstdirect, its telephone-banking subsidiary.

Barclays increased its interest rate by 1 per cent to 14 per cent on Thursday and guaranteed to maintain it until at least March. Tyndall has increased its rate from 13.65 per cent to 14.06 per cent.

The Lambeth Building Society has extended its 14 per cent rate to all balances and will pay a bonus at the end of the fifth year of up to 10 per cent of the balance at the end of the first year.

The Yorkshire Building Society launched its Tessa on Wednesday offering a rate of 14.75 per cent with a minimum balance of £100. Transfers require 90 days' notice.

Confederation Bank has launched a fixed rate Tessa paying 11.5 per cent for the full five years. Alliance Trust will accept fixed rate deposits setting the rates when applications are received.

The demand for the tax-free accounts, which allow up to £9,000 to be invested over five years, has continued unabated, with more providers reporting they have run out of Tessa forms or have a backlog of applications to process.

The Building Societies Association has said that people wanting to open a Tessa may have difficulty without proper identification. Birth certificates and credit cards are not accepted by themselves for proof of identity. Customers are advised to take a valid "full" passport, an armed forces identity card, a signed identity card bearing a photograph from a known employer or a full UK driving licence.

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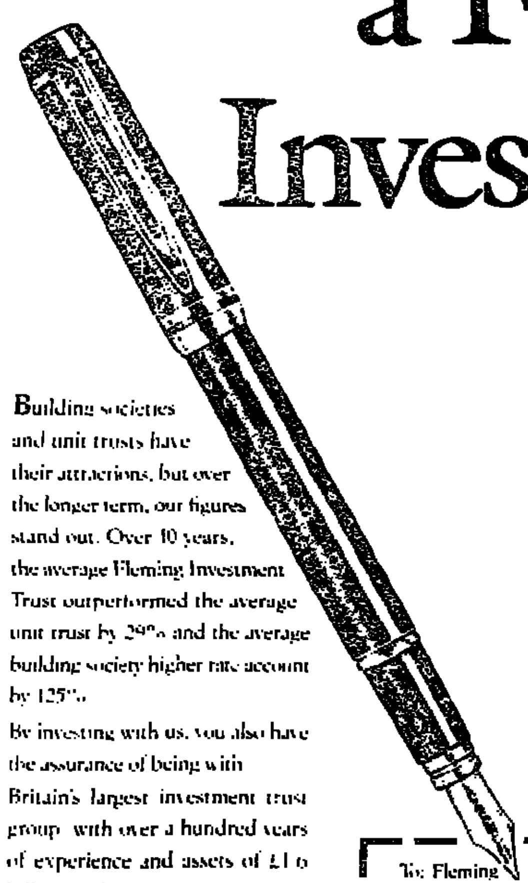

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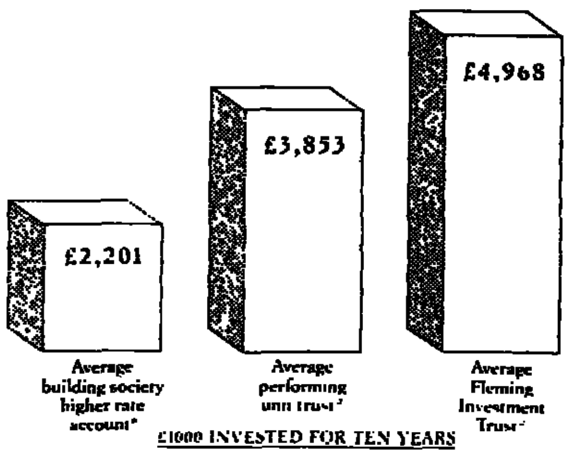

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THE INVESTMENT HOUSE

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Buddha of design who remains the eternal optimist

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

BUSINESS PROFILE

Terence Conran

Buying Christmas presents for most middle aged men is difficult, buying them for Sir Terence Conran must be nigh impossible. What do you give a multi-millionaire who owns the nicest shop in town?

"Some of my family bought me presents from The Conran Shop for Christmas," says an amused Sir Terence. "But the best present was from my housekeeper who bought me plain white underpants and dark blue socks."

But what delighted him most was a card with the inscription: "The retentive memory may be a good thing but the ability to forget is the true token of greatness." It is a motto he has taken to heart. There is a good deal of 1990 that he does not care to remember.

Last year he failed in two of his most ambitious projects. He left Storehouse, the stores group he built into one of Britain's biggest retail empires with Habitat, BhS, Mothercare, Richards Shops and Blazer. And Butlers Wharf, his development on the bank of the Thames, went into receivership.

These experiences have saddened him. There is nothing he hates more than incompleted projects, "unfinished dreams", as he calls them. But, an eternal optimist with an inability to sit doing nothing for two minutes, he is neither bitter nor depressed. Although approaching 60 he is not prepared to be written off. It irritates him immensely to see himself portrayed as one of the Nineties disaster stories.

"I don't mind criticism, heaven knows I wouldn't still be here if I did, but I have suffered an awful lot recently through inaccurate information and implication." The two common misconceptions that annoy him most are: that he was forced to leave Storehouse and that he has lost all his money in Butlers Wharf. He says he chose to leave Storehouse after being deeply undermined by Michael Julien, the chief executive, and he has lost about £4 million of his own money in Butlers Wharf.

He has made and lost vast sums over the years and recently realised £23.5 million from the sale of a 5 per cent stake in Storehouse. "Personal wealth is something which has been of total disinterest to me. Do I regret having been worth £200 million at one stage and being worth only a quarter of that today? Of course not, a quarter of that is far too much in any case. I'm embarrassed to sit here with money in the bank, I truly am. I'd much rather be using it to do something."

Those who know him well agree that it is not money that motivates him. His wife, Caroline Conran says: "He likes making things happen. He likes change but not in the things around him. He is enormously energetic and hard working and has great stamina. He has always enjoyed having lots of projects on the go at once. He doesn't like things to be in a mess and he is very fond of having his own way."

Conran gets away with being a mini-dictator at times because of his ability to charm people, and because of his achievements. At the Storehouse annual meeting in 1989 he turned a pack of very angry shareholders, who had seen their shares fall from 425p to 142p, into a personal fan club. "I stand here clothed in humility and a BhS suit," he told them.

He is a sort of buddha of the design world; portly, contented and self-centred, with a collection of small conceits. Conran has been his own boss almost since he left art school. It is difficult to imagine such an independent spirit taking orders from anyone. He is not a pompous man and has a wicked sense of humour. He loves gently winding people up. His wife describes his sense of humour as "low". "It tends to revolve around potties and nuns," she says.

Conran's new year resolution is to lose weight. "That will depress him. He loves eating and he would hate to live on salad," she says.

Sean Sutcliffe, with whom Sir Terence runs a small furniture workshop from a stable building in the Conran family home at Kintbury, Berkshire, says Conran is a perfectionist. "He is meticulous. He will go to extraordinary lengths to ensure that a piece of furniture is just right. He hates things being unfinished, it's a legacy from his mother who taught him to finish everything. He has enormous energy and stamina and can easily outwork me. He has an uncluttered vision and the ability to visualise a finished piece from a drawing. As a designer he just gets better and better. He can be frustratingly headstrong but he readily admits it if he is wrong."

Passion is the word most commonly associated with Conran. He cares passionately about everyday objects, about litter, about food, about shops, about all sorts of things. He is free from the cynicism that characterises many senior businessmen.

He disagrees violently with the philosophy that no one ever lost money underestimating the taste of the British public. "It is crass cynicism and it is used as an excuse by a lot of cynical retailers to peddle rubbish to people." He sounds almost angry but he insists he rarely loses his temper.

"I was once married to someone who made me lose my temper, thank God I'm not any longer. I sometimes pretend to be angrier than I am to get the adrenalin going." One thing he is angry about is the current state of the economy. "Politicians using the economy for their own political ends makes me angry," he says. "At the beginning of the Thatcher years people were encouraged to be entrepreneurial and form a genuine enterprise society. Those who did so have been totally let down by the government."

As part of his "nothing ventured, nothing gained philosophy", Conran has few regrets in life. One of the major ones, however, was his appointment of Michael Julien as chief executive of the ailing Storehouse Group. "I feel extremely sad that my dreams for Storehouse will now never materialise. I recruited Michael Julien because I thought he would be the right counterbalance for me. His skills would complement my skills. I thought he shared my vision for the group. I felt that what Storehouse needed was his disciplined approach to systems and finances.

"We'd gone through this really ghastly time of bids and bid rumours, firstly with Mountleigh and then Benlox. We needed someone of Michael's seriousness and solidness and lack of charisma. What I didn't realise was that he wanted to have it all. He wanted to run the whole show. My wife saw it. She said: 'He is like Cassius and has a lean and hungry look'. He very soon started to do everything he could to demonstrate to everyone that he was running the show and that I had nothing to do with it. I felt terribly undermined during that period, very, very depressed indeed. I think it would have been different under someone else. Someone else may have respected my talents. My greatest regret is the hundreds of really terrific people who believed in the business and who have gone for no good reason."

Conran was born in London, in 1931, but his his parents, Rupert and Christina, and his younger sister, Priscilla, moved to Liphook, Hampshire, just before the war. His parents came from well-off families both of which had lost everything in the 1929 crash. "My father was a terrific sportsman who had never really expected to work. But he had a business importing gum copal and rubber in Stepney. I remember sensing the excitement of the river when I was a boy and I am glad to be back on the river with Butlers Wharf. My parents lost a lot of money when my father's business was bombed in the war but, like many middle class parents, they crucified themselves for their children's education."

Conran was not academically inclined but his mother, recognising his creative talents, sent him to Bryanston School, Dorset, where craft, design and art were encouraged. Conran is a now a governor of the school. His mother was an important influence on his life.

After school he went to the Central School of Arts and Crafts, London, to study textile design. "I was taught by Eduardo Paolozzi, the sculptor. He taught me how to fry onions, make a risotto and gave me a taste for squid." They shared a furniture workshop.

He stayed at college for 18 months and left to take up a design job, one of the few going. After a spate working on the Festival of Britain, he set up his own furniture business and survived on commissions from architects. By 1955 he had diversified into shop fitting and exhibitions. Before long he was employing about 100 people, and the factory moved to Thetford, Norfolk, where for the first time he produced flat pack domestic furniture.

It was out of this manufacturing project that Habitat was formed in 1964. The first Habitat was in London's Fulham Road and it sold everything for the home. "The atmosphere was very like The Conran Shop today."

The chain expanded slowly. In 1967 Conran was approached by Reed Publishing, which expressed an interest in buying Habitat and turning it into a large chain. The takeover did not materialise, much to Conran's disappointment. Instead he formed a link with Ryman, the office equipment retailer.

Ryman's enthusiasm for Habitat evaporated quickly. "I became very disenchanted," says Conran who became joint chairman of the enlarged group. "The reason I'd done the merger was to expand Habitat and this was just not happening. Then one day Desmond Ryman said to me: 'Well, if you feel that passionately about your boutiques you had better buy them out of the business'." With the backing of Midland Montagu, Conran bought the business back.

Habitat floated on the stock market at the end of 1979 and very soon afterwards Conran bought Mothercare from Selim Zilkha. The initial results were good, and a newly knighted Sir Terence went on to acquire Heals in 1983. Richards Shops was bought the same year and Now, a womenswear chain, was formed. Two years later came the ambitious £1.5 billion merger with British Home Stores, now BhS.

Conran insists this frenzied activity during the consumer boom of the mid-Eighties was not empire building as such. "My ambitions have always been for change. In BhS I saw a moribund operation with terrific sites and I believed there was an opportunity for a certain type of store. It was a challenge. I certainly have no regrets about Mothercare, or Heals, or Richards, or any of the other things. I do regret that BhS was a merger rather than a proper takeover because it left a void and meant that no one made decisions."

The problem, according to Sir Terence, was the totally different cultures of the two businesses. Others believe Sir Terence simply had ambitions which outstretched his ability.

He is criticised these days for being a good designer but a bad businessman. "I'm not that bad. I did build up a business with a turnover of £1.5 billion, and the last time I was running Storehouse it had profits of £118 million. In my small way I run a number of very successful businesses. The Conran Shop is doing very well. I have made mistakes and I've never managed to get around me people who were able to run the administrative side of the business as efficiently as it should have been run. That's not my talent. I know it has to be done and the criticism could be made that I've picked poor people." But the City has pinned the blame for Storehouse's current problems firmly on Conran's shoulders.

He would be the last to agree, but Conran appears happier and more competent running a series of small projects where he is in total control.

Besides The Conran Shop he runs The Design Museum, into which he has put £10 million. He runs the Blueprint Café, and Bibendum restuaurants, Conran Roche, architects and town planners, and Benchmark, the small furniture company, where he spends every Saturday.

He is chairman of Jasper Conran, his son's fashion business, and a partner in Michelin House. He is starting a new restaurant in Butlers Wharf, called Pont de la Tour, and trying to take The Conran Shop to Paris. He is chairman of RSCG Conran Design and a director of Conran Octopus publishing. He is designing Canary Wharf's food court and writing a couple of books. "While I was at Storehouse I was still able to do all these things. Nothing ventured, nothing gained."

He enjoys spending time with his family. In addition to Caroline, his wife of 28 years and their three children, Tom, Sophie and Ned, he has two sons, Sebastian and Jasper by his first wife, Shirley Conran, authoress of *Superwoman*, *Lace* and *Sawages*. In addition to the Kintbury house, he has homes in London's Eaton Terrace and in France. His wife has a house in Dorset. Buying ramshackle property and doing it up is a Conran family hobby.

"There are so many things I still want to do in my life, anything from designing a coffee table to designing a new store or restaurant. I'm frustrated about the amount of time I have to do it in. I am very lucky indeed that there is practically no moment of my working day when I'm not doing something that interests me. This is the great bit of luck I've had in my life." he says.

STEPHEN MARKESON

'Nothing ventured, nothing gained': Sir Terence Conran with Caroline, his second wife, who says he is enormously hardworking

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Gateway to golden airspace

CAPITAL CITY

WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN BERLIN

EASTERN Germany must be the only region in the world where airspace is worth more than land and industry. In spite of unification the region remains an industrial desert, while land carries almost no value because no one knows who might reclaim it. Industry does not produce what people want and the workers are ill-equipped to cope with a modern industrial society.

But airspace is precious. Air is to eastern Germany what gold was to Alaska and is equally unlikely to benefit the natives.

Lufthansa and British Airways, Europe's largest airlines, may be competitors but they have a common interest in the airspace.

Lufthansa was founded in Berlin in 1926, banned from there in 1945, and readmitted to Berlin last October.

By contrast, British Airways was one of the Allied Powers' Berlin-flight oligopolists, a privilege to be phased out in 1993.

Soon the two companies will announce their eastern German ventures. Lufthansa will acquire Interflug, the former East German state airline.

The prize is Interflug's slots in Berlin, Leipzig, Dresden and other central and East European cities, rather than the Soviet-built planes or the staff, neither of which are up

Merger: Interflug and Lufthansa

zoned with Lufthansa's crane symbol.

BA was also interested in Interflug but, despite support by Germany's federal cartel office, failed to persuade the Bonn transport ministry.

Instead, the ministry opted for a pan-German solution rather than display its commitment to Eu-

Metro, the wholesale group. BA had also talked to Kaufhof, the department store group, but without success.

The failure of Sabena, BA and KLM to link up with each other has increased doubts over whether Brussels can become Europe's principal hub airport, one of the main rationales behind the ill-fated venture. And other capitals are also badly placed: Paris is too regulated and London too peripheral. Berlin too is peripheral but its geographical position will improve when central and East European countries join the the European Community.

However, there is little room to increase Berlin's capacity. Its main airport, Tegel, is only a few miles from the town centre, and much smaller than other German or European airports. Schönefeld, in eastern Berlin, where passport controllers still greet arriving passengers with the notorious stare-in-the-eyes, is also inadequate, so the German government is considering whether to construct a large out-of-town airport.

Even though Berlin might lose the race to become the seat of German government, great efforts are under way to make it the country's principal industrial and commercial city and a gateway to East Europe.

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Eviction awaits victims of loan offers

Consolidation of debt can sound an attractive way to reduce outgoings in the face of big winter bills. But some lenders can exact a heavy toll, as Lindsay Cook, Money Editor, reports

AS CHRISTMAS credit card statements, winter fuel bills and other demands arrive in the post, so does another seasonal offering: consolidation loans. Finance houses eager to sell loans to hard-pressed householders are offering ways of reducing monthly outgoings, but at a heavy price.

On one morning this week Christopher Bain, manager of the Birmingham Settlement Money Advice Centre, saw three people who once believed that such consolidation loans were the answer to their financial problems. One is days away from eviction, a second has lost his home, and the third has no arrears but cannot afford the repayments.

January is a peak time for such offers in newspapers, junk mailings and hand bills. The emphasis is often on the speed with which the loans can be arranged. For many households on the brink of debt the consolidation loan solution to their pressing bills is tempting. One reduced monthly payment covers all their debts.

One couple that took out a loan a year ago for £11,000, to pay for home improvements and to pay off other loans, now owes £18,000. They face eviction unless Mr Bain can persuade the county court to reopen the credit agreement and change its terms.

But the finance house that made the loan, with an annual percentage rate of 40.6 per cent, has taken no risk. The couple bought their home ten years ago and the difference between the value of the house and their small mortgage will comfortably cover the consolidation loan if the property is repossessed and sold. Had the couple managed to keep up the payments, they would have paid a total of £52,232.28 during the 15-year life of the agreement.

Mr Bain said: "They never worked out how much they would be paying back. These loans typically range between 40 and 50 per cent at the less reputable end of the market, even though the lender is taking no risk. There is enough value in the property to pay off the loan when the borrower is evicted." Building societies offer secured loans as low as 18.9 per cent and try to ensure that the borrower can afford the payments.

Evictions can happen quite quickly. Companies that have made secured loans, where a building society or bank mortgage already exists, may offer to pay off the first mortgage so that they have the only claim against the property and can take the owner to court straightaway.

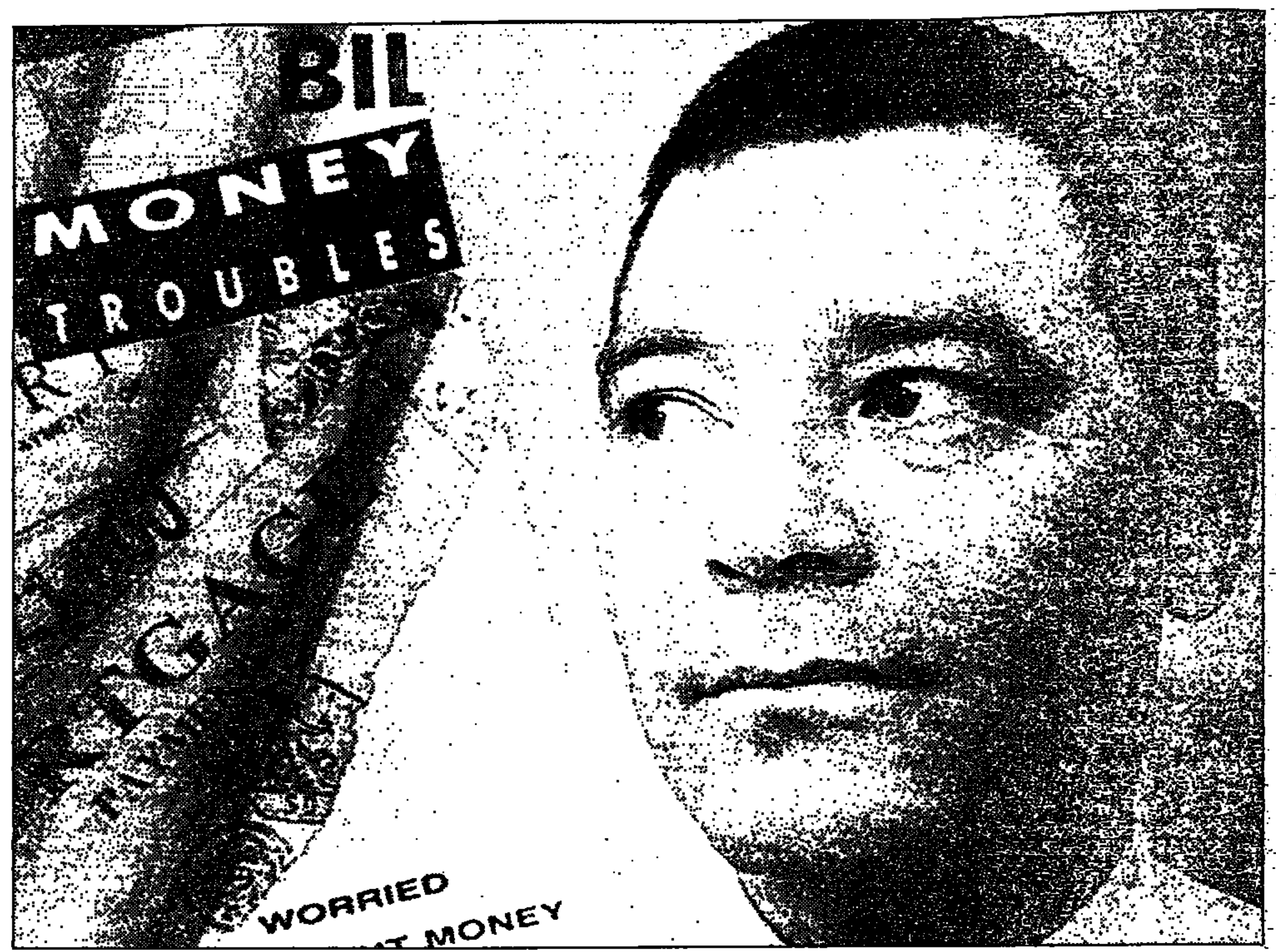
Mr Bain plans to apply to the county court for a time order under the Consumer Credit Act, which might allow the court to rewrite the loan agreement for the couple. Mr Bain said the powers have been little used because guidelines in the act were not specific.

Sir Gordon Borrie, director general of fair trading, is also concerned that the provisions of the Consumer Credit Act dealing with extortionate credit bargains have not been a success. Few cases have been brought and only a small number of these have resulted in the applicants paying a reduced rate of interest.

In October he called for a new regime for dealing with interest rates "which are so completely excessive as to be socially harmful". At the same time, he expressed concern at the way loans are marketed to people already in debt. The Office of Fair Trading has issued warning letters to companies known to be targeting these people. The lenders face losing their consumer credit licences if they do not take care in ensuring that their customers can afford the loans they have taken on.

The trade department last month proposed a tough, new credit regime. This should come into force later in the year and will require firms to print warnings that borrowers must make sure they can afford loans before they take them out and give a cooling-off period for them to change their minds about loan agreements.

Mr Bain said that too often people are embarrassed that they cannot pay their bills and find anonymous advertisements a much easier way to sort out their problems. Often the contracts are expressed in legal jargon. "They can be extremely confusing and people do not always know what they are agreeing to."



Picking up the pieces: Christopher Bain, of the Birmingham Settlement Money Advice Centre, tries to sort out debt problems

The borrower who has already lost his home is a man in his early sixties who thought he was taking out a seven-year loan for £5,500 that would reduce his monthly outgoings. He actually signed a three-year agreement, which doubled his monthly payments.

He only had a small mortgage on the house, taken out 15 years earlier. When the property was sold, he received a lump sum after the loan and interest had been repaid, but it was not enough for him to buy another home.

A survey by the Office of Fair Trading on overindebtedness found that only 37 per cent of people said they took the annual percentage rate of a loan into account when borrowing. Even more disquieting was the fact that only 11 per cent of respondents were aware that in the case of a secured loan it was possible to lose their house if they did not keep up repayments.

Since last February it has been a requirement of all advertisements for secured loans to carry a warning that failure to meet the payments can result in the loss of the borrower's home. The OFT has had difficulty in enforcing compliance with this "health warning" requirement.

Money advice workers still find that many people do not regard such secured loans as priorities for payment in the same way as their main mortgage.

Sara Merrick, of Camden Money Advice Centre, said: "They don't equate it with a mortgage. The amounts involved are often quite small but they can still lose their homes."

She said that it was not only people on low incomes who were tempted by such loans. "All sorts of people can be affected. They do not realise the sort of problems they may be taking on. We rarely see people as they decide to take on consolidation loans. We see them six months on when they are behind with the payments and may be under threat of a court hearing.

"People unable to afford current loans should contact those creditors and offer to pay what they can afford. They need to work out their household budgets and keep those people they owe money to informed of the situation."

High street banks, building societies and other lenders were more disposed to be sympathetic if they were told what was going on, she added.

> 'We rarely see people as they decide to take consolidation loans. We see them six months on when they be under threat of a court hearing.'

The National Consumer Council has issued a warning that people should take extra care with secured loans.

Debbie Leonard said: "People may lose their home for a few thousand pounds. Anyone considering such a loan should always go to a money adviser first. If they have a mortgage, their bank or building society may be willing to remortgage to clear other debts.

"The danger is where people have several unsecured loans such as credit cards and they take on a consolidation loan which puts their home at risk. If they cannot pay their bills they should tell the companies and make an offer to make smaller payments until the debts are cleared.

"Post-Christmas is a big time for these loans when the bills start coming in. Things are a lot grimmer this year. There are a lot of youngish homeowners struggling with high interest rates who might try to borrow their way out of their problems."

Terry Walker, of the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, said: "*People do not understand the implications of* secured loans. It appears to be a solution when, in fact, they are getting deeper into trouble.

"If they have unsecured debts such as credit cards they can be taken to a county court but they can only be made to pay as much as they can afford. If they have a secured loan the court will insist on the loan being repaid within a reasonable period or they lose their home."

Mr Walker said that bureaux were seeing a lot more court action than they used to.

"Consolidation loan and second mortgage companies tend to act more quickly than building societies.

"They may take someone to court after two missed payments. They argue they have to act quickly to get their money back."

Card fee ended in blacklist threat

A LONDON solicitor who cut up his Barclaycard in September in protest at the annual charge levied by the card company was threatened with credit blacklisting at the beginning of the year because he did not pay the yearly fee (Lindsay Cook writes).

Dominic Lang, a litigation solicitor in the City, paid off his full Barclaycard bill apart from the £8 annual charge in June. Then, after establishing that his Barclays Connect card could be used to guarantee cheques, Mr Lang cut *up his Barclaycard and returned it* to the company in September. He received an acknowledgement of the decision to close the account and confirmation that if the annual fee had already been charged this would be removed the following month.

However, statements continued to arrive showing the £8 fee and the interest accruing.

On top of this, a warning that a default notice was being issued arrived on January 3. If the notice had been issued, credit reference agencies would have been notified that he had failed to pay his credit card bill and he might have found it difficult to obtain loans in the future.

Since 1988, banks pass information to credit reference agencies when agreements with customers have totally broken down.

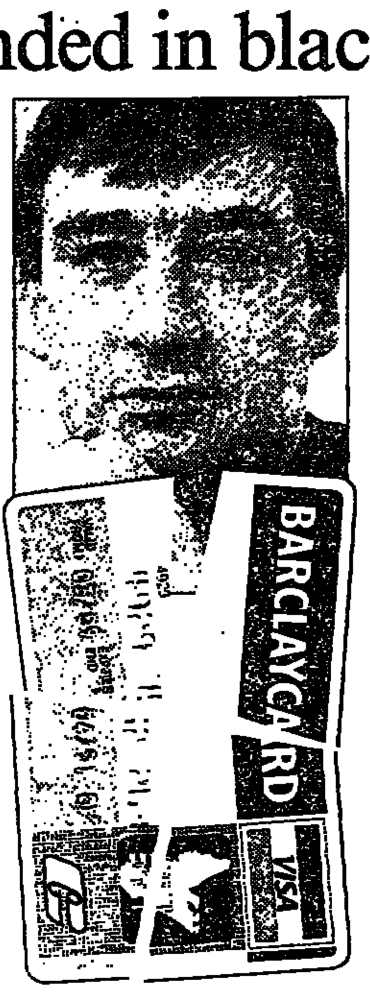
A spokeswoman for the British Bankers' Association said details of how much is involved or how many payments have been missed are not handed over.

"Banks only hand over details of the customer's name and address when the banker and customer relationship has ceased and it becomes a debtor/creditor relationship," she said.

Mr Lang wonders how many of the 500,000 active Barclaycard customers who have closed their accounts since June have been similarly threatened. "As a solicitor I knew what could happen and what they could and could not do. Other cardholders could be worried by the message on the statement," he said.

He is also concerned that some customers might not notice the small message at the foot of the statement and contact the credit card company before a default notice is issued. "I feel they should send a separate letter spelling out the consequences, so that it cannot be missed," he said.

After cutting up his card, Mr Lang at first ignored the statements saying he owed £8 plus interest. Then in early December, he received a statement dated November 28 instructing him not to use the card "until your account is in order". Mr Lang, who was also waiting for a pasta machine to arrive in return for his Profile points, fired off a letter to Barclaycard Services on December 5 pointing out that as the company was in possession of the card the instruction was "somewhat superfluous".



Lang: cut up credit card

Mr Lang told the company that he would have continued to ignore the statements, but for the fear of credit blacklisting.

He wrote: "I am becoming concerned about the possibility of my name appearing as some sort of bad debtor on a credit reference list. Please take immediate steps for the Barclaycard account to be closed, and confirm to me in writing within seven days that this has been done, otherwise I shall consider taking the matter further."

He received no reply. On January 3 his December 27 statement arrived showing a balance of £8 plus 85p interest. Alongside the balance a message said £8 was "overdue and payable immediately", and that a default notice under the Consumer Credit Act was being issued. It said he must also pay 85p by January 24, and concluded: "You must comply."

Mr Lang wrote immediately to the credit card company pointing out that the £8 was no longer payable as the card had been returned. Barclaycard gave all its customers a year to cancel their *cards, with the right to a refund of* the annual fee, when it announced it was levying the charge. He gave the credit card company until January 11 to confirm that the account had been closed with a nil balance. Otherwise he said he would commence legal proceedings.

He also tried to telephone the company eight or nine times during the course of the day. But, according to the recorded message, all the customer services staff were busy because of "an unprecedented demand".

He later visited his own branch of Barclays and the manager there contacted Barclaycard on his behalf. This week a spokeswoman for Barclaycard said that the account had been closed. Arrangements had been made for a pasta maker to be delivered to his bank branch for him to pick up. She said a machine sent in August had failed to arrive.

A letter of apology had been drafted and would be sent to Mr Lang. The £8 had not been reversed because of a clerical error and that the letter Mr Lang sent to Barclaycard on December 5 had not arrived. When his letter of January 3 arrived at Barclaycard the company realised an error had occurred, she said.

The message on the December 27 statement had been triggered automatically after 90 days without payment on the account. "There would have been no question of a default notice being issued. Passing the details of an account in default is not an automatic procedure," she said.

Barclaycard would wait for 16 days after a message appeared on a statement and then would write or telephone the customer.

"We would seek to make contact and by 21 days after the notice would consider passing it on," she added.

Comment, page 38

SUMMARY

GRE alert after agent arrested

INVESTORS who think they have money in a Guardian Royal Exchange broker bond run by Coventry Investments Group, its former tied agent, have been advised to contact the insurance company.

John Steel, operating as *Coventry Investments Group*, was the agent of GRE between April 1988 and June last year. This week he was arrested by West Midlands police and released on bail after an investigation by the Securities and Investments Board. It is alleged that up to £400,000 of investors' money is missing.

A spokesman for GRE said it did not allow its agents to operate bonds or to handle clients' money.

Mr Steel was also a non-executive director of Coventry Money Centre, selling products of other companies including a Crown Financial Management broker bond.

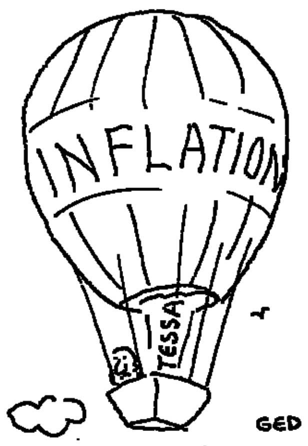
Conran inspired

Sir Terence Conran, who changed the face of the British sitting room, has lost none of his energy and passion despite two setbacks. He talks to Gillian Bowditch .... Page 39

Storm reports

Householders who have claimed repeatedly for storm damage during the bad weather of recent years are likely to face closer scrutiny by insurers .... Page 38

Your views



Tessas will do nothing to help the recession but will fuel another property boom by directing money into the banks and building societies, one reader cautions... Page 37

Gulf calm

The likelihood of war in the Gulf has not panicked most investors into moving out of equities..................... Page 36

BUSINESS

Treasury talks

A meeting between Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, and his top Treasury aides is taking place at Chevening, Kent, this weekend to consider ways of pulling the economy out of recession before an election...... Page 34

Coal threat

Pressure for a rigorous round of pit closures will fall on British Coal Corporation if it fails to have levies imposed on imports...................... Page 30

THE SUNDAY TIMES

US bank crisis

"Thousands of depositors in the US are worried by America's banking crisis. Politicians and regulators are even more worried about the problems of rescuing the banking system, burdened by over $31 billion of bad debts on property lending."

Business, The Sunday Times tomorrow.

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